

Cover Document

IL HABS No. MO-1996-1

Fults

Township 4 South, Range 10 West

Survey 314, Claim 745

Monroe County

Illinois

PHOTOGRAPHS,

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA;

COVER DOCUMENT FOR MO-1996-1-A THROUGH MO-1996-1-P

Illinois Historic American Buildings Survey
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois 62701

ILLINOIS HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
FULTS, ILLINOIS;

COVER DOCUMENT FOR
IL HABS NO. MO-1996-1-A THROUGH MO-1996-1-P

Location:

Fults is located in Township 4 South, Range 10 West of the Third Principal Meridian, in southwestern Monroe County, Illinois. The town lies on the eastern edge of the American Bottom, approximately three miles east of the Mississippi River and approximately 30 miles south of East St. Louis. Fults is situated near the juncture of Ivy and Bluff Roads and is adjacent to the St. Louis and Southwestern Railroad, a branch of the Union Pacific Rail System.

Fults lies on the eastern edge of a broad floodplain known as the American Bottom. Beginning in Madison County across from St Louis, the American Bottom stretches approximately 75 miles south to the mouth of the Kaskaskia River. Along its length, the American Bottom is bounded by a line of limestone bluffs on the east and by the Mississippi River to the west. While being naturally rich in terms of its fertile soil and agricultural yields, this area has been historically prone to flooding.

Present Owner:

The majority of the properties discussed in this report were purchased by the Village of Fults as part of the FEMA buyout program. A few of the properties discussed in this report remain in private ownership. Initial research was conducted on these properties prior to discovering that they were not included in the Federal program.

Present Occupant:

Except where noted, all buildings documented by this research are unoccupied.

Present Use:

Except where noted, all buildings documented by this research have been demolished as part of the Federal buyout program. The property thus remains undeveloped green space.

Statement of Significance:

A total of thirty-seven buildings were identified during the initial architectural survey of Fults. Of these, eleven were identified individually as being potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (under Criterion C) for Architecture, representing a particular style or form of building type which was representative of the social and economic development of Fults. Additionally, several other structures were noted as potentially eligible as contributing structures to an historic district.

The buildings documented by this research represent traditional domestic and commercial buildings typical of a small, early twentieth century, agrarian community. Collectively, these buildings retained sufficient integrity of location, design, setting and materials to warrant their listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a Historic District. Although many of these buildings were modest in character, they embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, method and period of construction and, as per Criterion C, were determined contributing resources in an historic district by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

Part I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date(s) of Erection:

As with many vernacular buildings, the actual date of construction of the majority of these buildings is unknown. Although a couple of the buildings documented during this research may predate the formal platting of the community of Fults (in 1905) by a couple of years, the majority of the structures discussed here were constructed during the first two decades of the twentieth century during the initial growth of this railroad community. The earliest building documented by this research is the small summer kitchen that has been incorporated into the structure of the Fults House (MO-1995-1-G). This small frame structure represents an early to middle nineteenth century outbuilding that was either moved on site from another location, or

suggests the possibility of a pre-1900 component at this location.

2. Architect:

The vast majority of the buildings documented in Fults were vernacular structures that were built during the early twentieth century by local contractors without the aid of a professionally trained architect. Such is the character of vernacular buildings.

One of the few buildings documented in the small community that probably was designed by an architect and/or engineer was the concrete grain elevator (MO-1995-1-0) which was constructed for the Nanson Commission Company in ca. 1913. Unfortunately, no information is available as to the architect of this structure.

3. Builders, Contractors, and Suppliers:

Although all the buildings identified in Fults were vernacular structures and the specific builder of these buildings is unknown, two early contractors were identified as living within the community of Fults during the early twentieth century period of significance. It is interesting to note that both carpenters, although Illinois born, were of German descent. The distinctive Germanic framing techniques are evident in the majority of the houses documented in Fults.

August Oelzen was identified in the 1910 Federal Census as a 30-year-old, Illinois-born house carpenter. Of German descent, both his parents and wife's parents were born in Germany. By 1920, Oelzen had abandoned the carpentry trade and was devoting his time to blacksmithing activities. It is suspected that Oelzen was responsible for the construction of his house (MO-1996-1-K) as well as several others in the community. The E. Buettner House (MO-1996-1-H), which is very similar in massing as well as interior plan, is also a likely candidate for having been constructed by Oelzen.

Rheinhardt Hartmann was identified in the 1920 Federal Population Census as a 58-year-old, Illinois-born house carpenter. Of German descent, both his parents and wife's parents were born in Darmstadt, Germany. In

1920, Hartmann apparently was single and living by himself in a home that he owned. Little else is known about this house carpenter.

Prior to the completion of the railroad line, building supplies (particularly timber) often were procured from local sources. Early housing in Fults, particularly those that pre-date the railroad (such as the Ferdinand Buettner House; MO-1996-1-B) were constructed with a wide range of local stock (including oak sills, joists, studs, and rafters). In 1910, two "sawmill engineers" were living within the young community. By 1920, these occupations were not recorded for Fults.

In contrast, many of the buildings constructed after the introduction of the railroad used a wide range of nonlocal materials (particularly yellow pine and/or cypress lumber transported from southern source areas along the St. Louis Valley rail line). Stenciled shipping labels, such as that identified on the exterior sheathing at the Hern House (MO-1996-1-E) document the influence of the railroad during these years. Similarly, the presence of crossed out shipping stencils for a Valmeyer supply house on lumber used within the community, suggests that much of this lumber was being purchased through the lumber yard at Valmeyer.¹

4. Original Plans:

No original plans exist for any of the buildings in Fults. It is suspected that formal plans for these vernacular houses never existed, and that they were constructed by the local carpenter/builder using traditional house forms common within the region.

5. Alterations and Additions:

None of the buildings documented in Fults were as originally constructed, having been modified through the years to meet the changing demands of the families that occupied the buildings. The physical changes in these buildings document the changing social and physical needs of the families that occupied them. These changes in the physical fabric of these houses document patterns in the evolution of both public (parlors, dining rooms) and private (bedrooms) spaces. Of particular interest are the patterns associated with the evolution of the food preparation space (kitchen,

work, porch, and pantries) as well as space devoted to the families hygiene (bathrooms).

B. Historical Context:

European settlement in southwestern Illinois dates to the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, when the French established a number of settlements along the American Bottom, in present-day St. Clair and Randolph Counties. The first of these settlements was Cahokia, which was founded in 1699 by a group of priests from the Seminary of Foreign Missions. Two years later, the Jesuit order established a mission sixty miles south of Cahokia at Kaskaskia, near the juncture of the Kaskaskia and Mississippi Rivers. These initial religious foundations attracted additional French from Canada; many of these were fur traders-- the *coureurs de bois* and *voyageurs*-- who remained in the region for only part of the year, but there were also farmers-- the *habitants*-- who came and settled on a permanent basis. To protect their interests in Illinois, the French government constructed Fort de Chartres midway between Cahokia and Kaskaskia, in 1720. This fortification became the center of French administration in Illinois and ultimately encouraged the foundation of the village of Nouvelle Chartres in its environs. In 1722, the village of Prairie du Rocher was established several miles east of Fort de Chartres.

French settlement in Monroe County does not appear to have taken place prior to 1723. In June 1723, the French Royal India Company granted Philip Renault a concession of land described as "one league fronting the Mississippi... with a depth of two leagues" north of Fort de Chartres, within what is now Monroe County. Renault was the Director of Mines in the Illinois Province, and he was assigned to use this land grant for the provisioning of any mines he might develop.² Renault arranged for farmers and mechanics to be settled on the tract, and these settlers eventually founded the village of St. Philippe on Survey 303 Claim 1308 approximately five miles north of Fort de Chartres.³ The bottomland within Renault's grant was designated as the village common, and by 1736 the common had been divided between the settlers into traditional French "long-lots".⁴ Although never more than a small agricultural village, St. Philippe appears to have been a thriving community into the 1760s.

Aside from St. Philippe, French settlement in Monroe County appears to have been relatively limited. A number of land grants were confirmed by the French government in the

American Bottom north of St. Philippe⁵, but these were relatively few in number.

The extent of French settlement in the American Bottom is depicted in an 1755 map published in Villier du Terrage's Les Dernie`res Annes de la Louisiane Francaise. The map shows the villages of Cahokia, St. Philippe, Prairie du Rocher, and Kaskaskia, as well as Fort de Chartres.⁶ In addition, it also depicts the primary Indian villages in the Bottom, including a Michigamea village adjacent to St. Philippe.⁷ At the time that this map was published, these villages were among the largest and the most important in the French Illinois Country. They served as commercial and cultural entrepot, while the countryside between them provided wheat and other foodstuffs needed in French settlements further south. The French population in the American Bottom during this period is estimated to have numbered between 1,500 and 2,000 people. Kaskaskia alone may have had over 600 people living in it.⁸

Further development of these communities, however, was dealt a serious blow in 1763, when Illinois was ceded to Great Britain as part of the Treaty of Paris. British troops formally occupied the region in 1765, and many of the French settlers in Illinois subsequently moved across the Mississippi River into Spanish controlled Missouri. St. Philippe was particularly hard hit by this exodus. Viewing it in 1766, British Captain Philip Pitman described the village as consisting of "sixteen houses and a small church," but noted that the only residents at that time were the local captain of militia and his 20 slaves.⁹ Never fully reoccupied, St. Philippe continued to decline throughout the remainder of the century and eventually disappeared altogether.

While Cahokia, Prairie du Rocher, and Kaskaskia avoided St. Philippe's fate, these communities and the American Bottom as a whole stagnated under British rule. Trade and agriculture persisted among the established population, but further settlement in Illinois was largely prevented due to restrictions placed by the British government on American settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains and by the relative remoteness of the region. This situation persisted until 1778, when an American force under the command of George Rogers Clark captured Kaskaskia and Cahokia. In the wake of Clark's victories, American traders and settlers began filtering into southwestern Illinois.

Unlike their French predecessors, who had settled almost exclusively in the American Bottom (and had been offered little incentive to do otherwise), many Americans considered the floodplain to be unhealthy and preferred settling in the better-drained uplands.¹⁰ The earliest, distinctively American settlement to be established in Monroe County was Bellefontaine, near present-day Waterloo. This settlement was founded in the summer of 1779.¹¹ Four years later, a second American settlement was established at Grand Ruisseau, where the road between Cahokia and Kaskaskia turned from the Bottom into the uplands.¹² A third upland, American community was founded at New Design, five miles south of Bellefontaine.¹³

American settlement, however, was not confined exclusively to the uplands. In spite of the potential risk of flood and sickness, there were Americans who established homesteads on the rich alluvium of the American Bottom. The exodus of the French population to the western shores of the Mississippi River in 1765 had resulted in the abandonment of many grants, and these properties were easily occupied by American settlers. This was particularly true of the Bottom in Monroe County, which had never been as heavily settled as that in St. Clair and Randolph Counties and whose one village [St. Philippe] had been practically abandoned. One focal point of American settlement in the Bottom was the Fountain Creek and Moredock Lake area, north of present-day Valmeyer.¹⁴ There was also a concentration of American settlement along Maeystown Creek in the Chaflin Bridge area.¹⁵

In 1796, the French agent, Georges-Victor Collot traveled through the central Mississippi River district and produced a detailed map of the region that was published in 1826 as part of his A Journey in North America (facsimile published in Alvord 1907).¹⁶ Collot's map is an invaluable source in detailing the geography, settlements, and transportation routes in Illinois as they existed during the 1790s. It indicates that there were two main roads running between Cahokia and Kaskaskia at that time. The first of these ran south from Cahokia within the American Bottom until it reached Grand Ruisseau, where it turned east and went into the uplands. The road then followed a route generally parallel to the line of the bluffs, passing through the New Design settlement and eventually reentered the Bottom in the area of Prairie du Rocher.¹⁷

The second of the roads documented on the Collot map traveled the floodplain for its entire distance and stayed

well west of the bluffs, eventually joining the route mentioned above near the village of St. Philippe. In the area of present-day Valmeyer, this bottom land road skirted a large body of water simply labeled "pond" (today Moredock Lake; once known as Eagle Lake) and passed by two areas identified as "salt works".¹⁸ South of the salt works, the road branched, with one route going out into the Bottom to a settlement labeled "Sandy Meadows Den," while the other stayed beneath the bluffs, which were noted to be particularly steep in this area.¹⁹ The two roads rejoined a short distance south of "Hulls Town" and continued south toward St. Philippe, Prairie du Rocher and Kaskaskia.

For the most part, the communities shown on the Collot map that were located in modern-day Monroe County were not "towns" in the traditional sense. They represented concentrations of individual homesteads, loosely clustered around a blockhouse or "station"²⁰ in order to assure mutual security. The threat of raids by such tribes as the Kickapoo persisted up through the War of 1812, limiting the initial scope of American settlement expansion and breeding an almost siege-mentality among the populace.²¹ Once that threat was removed with the conclusion of the war, however, settlement into the interior accelerated and formal towns began to develop.

The first organized American towns to be established in the American Bottom of Monroe County were located adjacent to the Mississippi River. The first of these was Carthage, which was selected as county-seat when Monroe County was formed in 1816. Subsequently renamed Harrisonville, the town served as the center of county government until 1825, at which time the county offices were moved to Waterloo. In the late 1820s, Harrisonville was composed of a store, two ferry operations, and a "scattering" of buildings.²² A mile north of Harrisonville, was the town of Bridgewater, which was laid out in 1818. Bridgewater had ten or twelve structures in 1828, but at that time, was inhabited only by the Harlow family, which operated a store, distillery, flour mill, and saw mill during the 1830s.²³

Harrisonville and Bridgewater, however, were both subject to serious flooding, and the Mississippi steadily eroded away the river banks upon which the towns were built. The encroaching waters forced the abandonment of the two towns by 1840, and they were eventually washed away altogether.²⁴

The demise of Bridgewater and Harrisonville ultimately encouraged the settlement of a new town, further away from

the river on Survey 497 (Claim 511) and Survey 1726 (Claim 569). This new foundation became the home for many of those who had abandoned the two river communities. Merchants C. B. Fletcher, and Mattias and Harrison Horine relocated there from old Harrisonville, as did Noah Harlow from Bridgewater.²⁵ The town was officially platted in 1852 and initially retained the name of New Harrisonville, after its unlucky forerunner. Although relatively small itself, [New] Harrisonville was the most important Monroe County community in the Bottoms during the second half of the nineteenth century. In 1883 it counted amongst its business interests two merchants, three blacksmiths, two shoemakers, a harness maker, and four physicians. In addition, it had two churches and twenty-five houses.²⁶

Another significant Bottom community, was Ivy Landing, which was situated along the Mississippi six miles south of Harrisonville. A post-office was established at that location in 1874. That same year, Smith H. Brickey and Zeno Aubuchon opened a mercantile business. A blacksmith shop was opened there as well, and by 1883, Ivy Landing could count a half dozen buildings in its environs. Ivy Landing is one of the few communities located in the Monroe Bottom that was depicted in the late nineteenth century atlas.²⁷

By and large, however, the American Bottom represented the backwater of Monroe County during the latter half of the nineteenth century. Harrisonville and Ivy Landing, while thriving commercially, were primarily cross-road communities providing needed services to the surrounding rural population. Bypassed by major roads and lacking rail service, the Bottom remained overwhelmingly rural with the majority of its population engaged in agriculture.

Greater development had occurred in the uplands of Monroe County. In 1880, Waterloo was the largest town in the county, with about 2,500 inhabitants, and it was rivaled by Columbia, which had a population of over 2,200. The prosperity of both these towns had been significantly enhanced when the St. Louis and Cairo Railroad established a route through them in 1875.²⁸ Smaller upland communities included Freedom, Glasgow City, Madonnaville, Monroe City, Burkville, New Hanover, and Maeystown. The latter two communities had developed in the wake of the heavy German immigration to Monroe County that occurred between 1840-1860.

Rail service did not extend to the bottomlands of Monroe County until the early 1900s. In March 1901, the St. Louis Valley Railroad Company was incorporated with the intention of constructing a rail line through the American Bottom between East St. Louis and Cairo, Illinois.²⁹ Work on the line began in the summer of 1901, and by June 30 of the following year, the company had managed to lay 100 miles of track. At that time, however, none of the completed line was in operation, and, with forty-six miles of track left to lay, the company was quickly exhausting its resources.³⁰

In May 1903, before it could complete the final leg into Cairo, the St. Louis Valley Railroad Company was forced to sell out to the St. Louis, Iron Mountain, and Southern Railroad Company.³¹ The latter company was a conglomerate that operated slightly over 1,815 miles of rail lines and had gross earnings of over \$18 million in 1903. Within two months of its acquisition of the St. Louis Valley Railroad, the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad had laid the nineteen miles of track necessary to connect it with one of its lines in Missouri and, thus, quickly placed it in operation.³²

At the time of its completion, the St. Louis Valley Railroad had thirty-one stations located along its 119.26 miles. None of these stations, however, were located in Harrisonville or Ivy Landing. Having been constructed along the higher ground on the eastern edge of the Bottom, the railroad had completely bypassed both of these established river communities. In doing so, the railroad ultimately encouraged the foundation of a number of new towns adjacent to its tracks.

The most prominent of these railroad communities was Valmeyer, platted two miles east of Harrisonville in 1902, and Fults, situated one and a half miles northeast of Ivy Landing and platted in 1905. Besides being stations on the railroad, Valmeyer and Fults both benefited from being grain shipping centers. In 1901, the St. Louis Valley Railroad had granted the Nanson Commission Company (of St. Louis) the right to erect a line of grain elevators along its right-of-way. The Nanson Commission Company started work on these elevators in 1902, and "in rapid succession erected them at Valmeyer, Maeys, Fults and Renault in [Monroe] County; Prairie du Rocher, Modoc and Riley's Lake in Randolph; Jones' Ridge, Raddle, Jacobs and Grimsby in Jackson, and Wolf Lake in Union counties."³³

Fults is situated on Surveys 314 (Claim 745), 313 (Claim 1306), and 326 (Claim 1305) within the bottomland associated with the Renault Grant. The land where Fults is currently situated [Claim 745 (Survey 314), Claim 1306 (Survey 313), and Claim 1305 (Survey 326)] was claimed by J. F. Perry and Joseph Morrison in the right of the original French claimants-- Joseph Pierre, Jean LeGrange, and Jean and Pierre Gerardot.³⁴

Until the early 1900s, the site of Fults was devoted to agriculture. A map from 1875 indicates the ownership of the future town site as being divided between W. J. Frisch, who owned a 20-acre tract in Survey 314, Claim 745 and Jacob Fults, who owned portions of Survey 313, Claim 1306 and Survey 312, Claim 1305.³⁵ No developments are shown on the site, although there are a number of structures immediately to the west and south, along Ivy Road.³⁶ By 1901, ownership of the site had passed on to other hands: Ferdinand Buettner owned Frisch's former property, and the partnership of William T. Demint and D. M. Hardy had purchased the two adjacent tracts from the Fults family.³⁷ While no structures are indicated as having been present on the site in 1901, the projected route of the St. Louis Valley Railroad is depicted as crossing both properties.³⁸

The completion of the railroad and the subsequent construction of a grain elevator by the Nanson Commission Company along the right-of-way were the key factors in the founding of Fults. Active rail service through the Bottom reduced the importance of the waterborne commerce that had been supporting such rural, service communities as Harrisonville and Ivy Landing. Recognizing this fact, a number of local farmers established commercial ventures adjacent to the railroad, on the 16.18-acre parcel owned by Ferdinand Buettner in Survey 314, Claim 745.

The first of these individuals was William H. Limestall, who purchased a one acre tract, flanking the railroad, from Buettner in May 1903.³⁹ Shortly after his acquisition of the property, Limestall erected a house on the location, along with a "mercantile" which apparently was initially operated by his brother-in-law, William O'Neil. At that point in time, the locality of Limestall's store and the Nanson Commission Company's elevator was known as Brownsburg Station. The station received its name from being at the mouth of Brown's Hollow. The name was changed to Fults in September 1903 when Limestall secured the establishment of a post-office there. The similarity of Brownsburg to several other post-offices in Illinois necessitated a change and the

town's new name was selected in honor of the Fults family.⁴⁰ The post-office was based in Limestall's store, and Limestall himself served as post-master. In 1904, Limestall gave up farming and turned to the full-time operation of his mercantile business. He would later form a partnership with George Bradshaw, which resulted in the business being renamed "Limestall and Bradshaw".⁴¹ Both George Bradshaw and the Limestall family constructed substantial two-story houses in the early community (See MO-1996-1-I and MO-1996-1-J, respectively).

Limestall's developments were followed by those of Casper Jost, who owned a sizable farm adjacent to Ivy Landing. In October 1904, Jost purchased a narrow tract immediately east of Limestall's where he constructed a two-story saloon and dance hall that was named "Jost's Retreat." Plans for the opening of the saloon were apparently made as early as the spring for that year; on April 20, 1904, the Waterloo Republican noted "so we hear Mr. C. Yost [sic] will open a saloon at Brownsburg soon."⁴² Jost also erected a house to the rear of the "Retreat", into which he and his family later moved (See MO-1996-1-L).⁴³ Thus by the end of 1904, Fults had a merchantile business, saloon, a frame grain elevator, and at least two residences. The town, however, was not officially platted and named until October of the following year (1905), when Ferdinand Buettner arranged for the surveying of thirty town lots: twenty-four of these were aligned along two streets east of, and roughly parallel to, the railroad, while eight were located west of the railroad and were accessed by a narrow alley, via Ivy Road. Limestall and Jost's properties were respectively numbered Lots 9 and 10.⁴⁴

Compared to Limestall and Jost, historical sources are relatively silent concerning Ferdinand Buettner's role in the initial settlement of Fults. This is unfortunate considering that he was, as such, the proprietor of the town. Buettner is known to have been engaged in farming, an occupation that he apparently maintained into his later years even as he resided in Fults. Fairly early in the community's history, Buettner constructed a small, single story house for his use (See MO-1996-1-B). There is also some evidence that he constructed a tavern on Lot 16 in 1906 or 1907, which he may have rented out to another party.⁴⁵

Tax records indicate that Buettner was able to sell the town lots in Fults relatively quickly. By 1907, he retained ownership of only six of the original thirty lots, and many of those which he had sold had been subsequently developed.

Joseph and Eliza McMurtry, for example, had purchased Lots 12 and 19 in 1906 and constructed a residence and a grocery store on those properties (See MO-1996-1-A).⁴⁶ Lots 25 and 26 had been acquired by St. John's United Church of Christ in early 1906, and by December of that year the group had erected a sanctuary there.⁴⁷ Lot 15 was purchased by Reinhardt Hartmann in 1907. Hartmann is believed to have built a structure at that location that was later used as a merchantile by Casper Jost and Lawrence Kettinger.⁴⁸

The prospect of further growth in Fults was bright enough for William T. Demint and D. M. Hardy to make a sizable addition to the south side of town in December 1908. The addition consisted of two blocks of sixteen lots each, stretching the width of both Survey 313, Claim 1306 and Survey 312, Claim 1305. Block 1 was located on the east side of the railroad and was fronted by Nanson Street, while Block 2 was on the other side of the tracks and was fronted by Commercial Street.⁴⁹

Based on an assessment of the property tax records, Fults could boast twelve residences, six commercial properties, and a church by 1910. At that time, the property tax assessments ranged from a low of \$35 to a high of \$535. The multiple \$35 assessments probably represented unimproved single lots. Similarly, the two highest assessments (of \$500 and \$535) were for tracts of land consisting of multiple, unimproved lots owned by Demint and Hardy. In 1910, the highest assessed improvement in Fults was the Jost's saloon and house (which had an assessed value of \$500). At close second was William Limestall's store and house which were assessed at \$465. Both Adam Maus' boarding house and Maggie Bradshaw's house were assessed at \$400. Other improved properties were assessed at \$85 (n=1), \$135 (n=2), \$165 (n=4), \$200 (n=1), \$265 (n=1), \$300 (n=1), \$335 (n=1), and \$350 (n=1). Collectively, Demint and Hardy had the highest assessment, totaling \$1,035. Casper Jost's collective assessment, at \$800, was the second highest followed by Ferdinand Buettner (with his multiple properties) at \$610. Although there are exceptions (particularly with regard to the upper end properties), age appears to be a significant variable with the assessed property values --with older families have more valuable property.

One of the first detailed demographic profiles of the young railroad community of Fults is presented in the 1910 Federal Population Census. According to the census, by the summer of 1910, there were 130 individuals living within 28

different "dwellings" within the community. The 1910 Federal population census (which the following analysis is drawn from) differs slightly from the description of the community presented in the tax records, in part due to the manner in which some farm families surrounding the small community may have been incorporated into the village census totals.⁵⁰

By 1910, the community of Fults represented a fairly small, but stable agricultural community, with a nearly equal mix of males and females. Of the 28 households, 25 were indicated as having children. Family size varied, with 8 families indicated as having one child, 6 as having two children, 7 as having four children, 2 as having six children, and a single family as having seven children.

Typical of the settled character of the community, the population in Fults at that time was relatively young, with over 51% of the population being dependent children. Over 30.7% of the population was under 10 years of age. Suggesting relative stability in the community, of the children sixteen years of age or younger, over 98% were born in Illinois, with only 1 child (representing less than 2% of the children) having been born in Missouri.

The nativity of the adult population (20 years of age or greater) was predominately Illinois (representing over 77% of the adult population). Individuals born in Missouri accounted for 13.6% of the adult population, while those from Indiana accounted for less than 2% of the population. The immigrant adult population consisted of 5 German-born individuals (comprising 7.6% of the adult population). It is interesting to note, that the German immigrant population represents older individuals (with ages of 33, 51, 52, 62, and 76). One of the German-born immigrants was a house wife, three were laborers (farm, railroad and elevator laborers), while the fifth was the very successful, 62-year-old Casper Jost.

The working population in the community included approximately 40 individuals. Eleven of these individuals were listed as farmers (ranging in age from 24 through 52). The majority of the farmers were renters, with only two farmers owning their own homes. Although some of the farmers may have been living on the outskirts of town and incorporated into the community census, it is suspected that some of them (such as Ferdinand Buettner) were living within the community itself. The second most common occupation was that of laborer. Ten individuals, ranging in age from 30 to

76 years of age, were enumerated as laborers (general, railroad, farm, as well as elevator workers). Only one laborer (a 40-year-old railroad laborer by the name of Kunkel; See also MO-1996-1-C for a similar situation) owned property in town. The youngest class of workers listed were servants. Two young (14- and 17-year-old) female servants were listed among the working population of the community. The construction trades were represented by a 30-year-old house carpenter (August Oelzen; See MO-1996-1-K) and two sawmill engineers.

The "white collar" occupations included two merchants, a boarding house operator, two saloon proprietors, a butcher, a grocery clerk, a department store salesman, and a telegraph operator. The two merchants included William Limestall (a 48-year-old dry goods and grocery merchant) and Joseph McMurtry (a 57-year-old grocery merchant; See MO-1996-1-A). Both merchants were older and home owners. In contrast, the saloon proprietors, boarding house operator, telegraph operator, and butcher were younger individuals that did not own their own house. Both the salesman and grocery store clerks owned their own house.

The majority of the families in Fults lived in single family dwellings. In contrast, some individuals like the local saloon keeper and a railroad laborer boarded at the local boarding house. According to the 1910 Federal Population census, homeownership was relatively common in Fults. Of the 28 households listed in the census, 16 (or 57.1%) were homeowners, while 12 (or 42.9%) were renters.

By this time (1910), the commercial center of the community was the juncture of Main and Nanson Streets, where two saloons and two mercantiles were located. The only known developments in Demint and Hardy's Addition at that time were in Block 1, where there was a boarding house on Lot 3 and a house on Lot 14.⁵¹ The area was to receive a significant addition in 1913, however, when the Nanson Commission Company purchased Lots 5, 6, and 7 and erected a large, concrete elevator on the property. Standing 85' high and 36' by 48' at the base, the concrete elevator augmented the storage capacity of the earlier elevator located in the railroad right-of-way.⁵²

Fults received a fair amount of publicity in a 1916 county atlas, which included several photographs of the community and highlighted a number of its prominent businesses. One of the photos shows Jost's Retreat, with the Limestall and Bradshaw store next to it, and the Kettinger and Jost

merchandise across the street, in Lot 15. The caption below the photograph describes the Retreat as a "first class saloon and hall" and notes that it "is the headquarters for the young people of the neighborhood, who gather there quite often for dances, shows, or other forms of entertainment...."⁵³

Another photograph included in the 1916 atlas is a view of Fults from the south end of Nanson Street, looking north. This photograph captures many of the structures then standing in Block 1 of Demint and Hardy's Addition, including three residences and Nanson's concrete elevator (See MO-1996-1-0). The original Nanson elevator is depicted on the west side of Nanson Street, along with a number of frame outbuildings. Appearing at the north end of Nanson Street, in the above photograph, is the Limestall and Bradshaw store, which was reported by the atlas to be "carrying a general line of merchandise, and doing as nice a business as any store of its size in the county".⁵⁴

Based on the 1920 Federal population census, Fults had a population of approximately 132 individuals which were living within approximately 41 "households". Although the population was nearly the same as that recorded in 1910, the number of houses had increased.⁵⁵ While the town's commercial interests were essentially the same as they were the decade before, a number of new houses had been erected, bringing the total of known residences at that time to nineteen.⁵⁶ By this time (1920), a slightly more diversified working population was present in the community with several new occupations being indicated (including repairman, purchasing agent, postman, blacksmith and auto agent). The presence of the "auto agent" clearly indicates the impact of the horseless carriage to the rural landscape by 1920.

Based on an assessment of the 1920 property tax records, there were twenty-one property owners in the community of Fults in early 1920. Although the majority of the property owners were individuals (n=18), the Nanson Commission Company, the Demint and Hardy partnership, as well as St. John's United Church of Christ, also owned property within the community. Collectively, the largest landowner in the town was the owner of the local grain elevator, the Nanson Commission Company (with a total assessed value of \$4,800). The individual with the greatest cumulative property value was Casper Jost whose store and house was assessed at \$1,200. The next two largest landowners in the community were Wendell Valentine and Henry H. Hern. Valentine owned

three houses in town valued at a total of \$1,160. Similarly, Henry H. Hern owned two houses and an unimproved lot valued at \$1,045.

Excluding St. John's Church (which did not pay any property taxes), the Nanson Commission Company's commercial landholdings (which totaled \$4,900), and the multiple, unsold lots owned by Demint and Hardy (assessed at a total of \$985), the individual property assessment values in Fults in 1920 ranged from a low of \$45 to a high of \$750. With individual property assessments of \$750 and \$705, respectively, Casper Jost and William Limestall had the highest assessed individual properties in the town. Excluding these two commercial properties, Henry H. Hern's house --with an assessment of \$640-- was the highest assessed residence in the community.

The 1920 Federal population census highlights the clear association between age and homeownership. Of the 14 Head of Households in the community between the age of 20 and 39, 13 (representing 92.8%) were renters. In contrast, of the 18 Head of Households in the community 40-years-of-age or older, 15 (representing over 83%) were homeowners.

By the late 1920s, however, it was apparent that Fults was not going to enjoy the growth and commercial prosperiety such as that experienced by Valmeyer, ten miles to the north. Additional structures would be built over the years, but these were mostly residential properties, rather than businesses, and their number was never great enough to require the surveying of another addition to the town. Block 2 of Demint and Hardy's Addition never did experience any development. In August 1932 Louis S. Demint officially "vacated" it and Commercial Street, without one of the lots there ever having been sold.⁵⁷

Nonetheless, Fults remained a vibrant community and continued to function as a local service center. In June 1937, the town was officially incorporated, with William Asselmeier being named as the first mayor. Following the incorporation date, the community organized an annual homecoming and picnic. In 1956, an elementary school was erected on the south end of Fults, between Block 1 of Demint and Hardy's Addition and Bluff Road. Named Cedar Bluff School, this institution replaced the old Canniff School, which was located west of town on Ivy Road.⁵⁸ The concrete grain elevator erected by the Nanson Commission Company continued to be used, and in the early 1960s the operation was expanded with the construction of a dryer house, grain

leg, equipment shed, and a steel storage bin.⁵⁹ As of 1967, commercial interests in Fults included: Mehrtens' Grocery and General Merchandise, which was occupying the old McMurtry Store building; Fausz Grocery and General Merchandise, in what was once the Limestall and Bradshaw Store; Everett Esker's Tavern and Texaco Service Station; Eugene William's Tavern; Mehrtens' Garage; Farm Supply Fertilizer Plant; W. R. Grace and Company Fertilizer; and the Mon-Clair Grain Company.⁶⁰

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character:

By the late nineteenth century, the Monroe Bottom had developed into a mature agricultural district with many, large and productive bottom land farms. Although corn and livestock were important commodities, wheat was one of the major crops shipped from the region. By this time, the rural community was firmly rooted in an international market economy and the small, subsistence farmer had, by then, vanished completely from the landscape.

Although the family farmstead was the basic building block of this economic system, it was the rural service center (such as Fults) that supplied the farm families with many of their social and physical needs. Unfortunately, little information was gleaned about the commercial aspect of this community through this research. In contrast, substantial information was obtained about the domestic environment of the early community.

The buildings documented in Fults represent traditional housing (and commercial structures) associated with a small, agrarian community within the American Bottom. Although constructed during the first decades of the twentieth century, these dwellings are typical of the traditional housing constructed in the American Bottom during the late nineteenth century and document the range of variability in the housing of the unskilled laborer, skilled tradesman, and more financially successful village resident.

On the lowest end of the economic spectrum were the laboring classes. These individuals worked at a wide range of jobs and were employed by the local railroad company, the Nanson Commission Company, by many of the local farmers, as well as the local merchants and building contractors. Most laborers rented their housing and had little or no taxable personal property.

The smallest housing present in the community of Fults were small, single-story structures with little to no ornamentation, and simple gable roofs. These single-pile structures were oriented with their long axis parallel to the street and had a simple, two-room, rectangular plan. The Ferdinand Buettner House (MO-1996-1-B), which was either occupied by this older, unmarried farmer or constructed as a rental property, is indicative of the early housing constructed for the working class community. Containing approximately 390 square feet, the house contained a multi-purpose room that served as a kitchen, dining room, and parlor as well as a second room that functioned as a bedroom. Distinctive features of this two-room house are the double front doors, vertical board and batten siding, and the absence of a cellar.

Not long after the original construction of the Ferdinand Buettner House (MO-1996-1-B), a large kitchen wing, with cellar below, was constructed onto the house. Although this wing gave the house a non-traditional orientation to the street, it brought the house into line with the minimal housing requirements for the period.

One step in economic scaling above the original Ferdinand Buettner House is the house constructed for the Hursey family (North Hursey House; MO-1996-1-C). Although similar in plan to the original Buettner House, the Hursey House has an additional rear wing that contained the kitchen. The three-room, L-shaped plan of the Hursey House resulted in the separation of the cooking and dining activities in the house from the more formal parlor space. Additionally, the front two rooms in the Hursey House (containing approximately 460 square feet) are slightly larger than those at the Buettner residence. With the rear kitchen wing, the Hursey House contains approximately 680 square feet of living space. Unlike the Buettner House, the Hursey House has only a single front door. Although this house lacked a cellar beneath the house proper, a

well-built summer kitchen complete with cellar, was an integral part of the working Hursey House. By the early twentieth century, the Hursey House plan was a fairly standardized house form that generally represented the minimal house for a working-class family.

A single story house, constructed for a young merchant (a butcher) is the Koch House (MO-1996-1-D). This cross gable dwelling is unique to the community, and probably represents a more popularly inspired house style than the traditional house forms discussed above. This house is representative of the more traditional house forms advertised in Hodgson's Practical Bungalows and Cottages for Town and Country (See for example Design No. 1038, page 26).

On the upper end of the economic spectrum were the more established tradesmen and white collar workers. These individuals often were self-employed, owned their own house, and had both taxable real estate as well as personal property. Typical housing constructed for the more successful tradesmen and white collar workers in Fults is represented by the Eckhardt Buettner House (MO-1996-1-H), the George Bradshaw House (MO-1996-1-I), the Limestall House (MO-1996-1-J), the Oelzen House (MO-1996-1-K), and the John Buettner House (MO-1996-1-M). These houses (which have a two-room, single pile fronts with their long axis parallel to the street and large kitchen wings on the rear) represent large, two-story equivalents of the North Hursey House (MO-1996-1-C).

The ground floor of these houses consist of two rooms fronting the street and a third room towards the back of the house. Whereas, the rear room in these houses (which contains a chimney as well as the stairway leading to the second story) functioned as the kitchen, the use of the front two rooms is somewhat problematic. Both rooms have formal entrances that lead to a front porch as well as doors that access either the kitchen or the rear work porch. Whereas, one of these rooms is suspected as functioning as formal space (ie. a parlor), the function of the second room is more difficult to determine. If the family wanted more formal entertaining space, this second room may have functioned as a dining room. In the small rural community of Fults, however, it is more than likely that these rooms functioned as a downstairs bedrooms.

As the master bedroom, these rooms were cooler in the summer and did not require climbing steps to reach them --both traits receptive to older family members. The upper stories of these houses contained three rooms which functioned as bedrooms, and work rooms, as well as storage space. Associated with all these houses are large cellars located beneath the house proper.

Two variations in this house form were recognized within Fults. One form (represented by the Eckhardt Buettner House, MO-1996-1-H), with its T-shaped floor plan, double work porches and front wall dormer, had a winding stairway located with its long axis perpendicular to the main body of the house. On the second story, this stairway opened up into a common room located above the kitchen. This common room accessed each of the two bedrooms. In contrast, the second variation in this house form (represented by the George Bradshaw House; MO-1996-1-I), had an L-shaped footprint with only one work porch and no front wall dormer. Unlike the T-shaped plan, this plan had a straight stairway that had its long axis parallel with the main body of the house. On the second story, the stairway opened up into a common stairhall that accessed all three private bedrooms. Whereas, the T-shaped version had a large cellar underneath the main body of the house, the L-shaped version had a smaller cellar located beneath the rear kitchen wing.

Not counting the cellar space, nor work porches, the T-shaped Eckhardt Buettner House contains approximately 700 square feet per floor (or 1,400 square feet total), while the L-shaped Bradshaw House contains approximately 795 square feet per floor (or 1,590 square feet total). As such, it appears that the T-shaped Buettner House, although slightly smaller in size, has larger work porches, a much greater amount of cellar space, and slightly more formal facade. In contrast, the more "modern" L-shaped Bradshaw House, not only is slightly larger in size, but has a reorganized second story floor plan that resulted in more private bedroom space. The smaller cellar space in this house may also represent a move towards a more "modern" kitchen, reflecting the use of less traditional food preservation methods.

In their basic form, the main front portion of these large, frame houses (which are two rooms long, one room deep, and two stories tall with a transverse-gable

roof) represent a traditional house form that is referred to as an I-house by cultural geographers (due to its initial identification in Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa). Often having a central hallway, the I-house represents a traditional Anglo-American house form that maximizes on the available wall space for windows (necessary for both natural light and ventilation). Often associated with the Upland South, the I-house form has come to connote the economic and agrarian stability of the middle-class farmer "who carried much of the predominately English folk culture of the eastern United States."⁶¹ As Kniffen noted, "the I-house became symbolic of economic attainment by agriculturalists and remained so associated throughout the Upland South and its peripheral extension." Some researchers have referred to the smaller single story versions of this house form as an I-Cottage.⁶²

In contrast to the I-house, a distinctive square house form is also present in Fults. These houses are two rooms long by two rooms deep and have high gable roofs. Both single (McMurtry House; MO-1996-1-A) and one-and-one-half-story (Hern House; MO-1996-1-E) versions are present. Unlike the Anglo-American I-house form discussed above, this house form is believed to have been associated with the middle to late nineteenth century German agrarian population of the community.

Although only one story in height, the McMurtry House (MO-1996-1-A) represents housing constructed for a fairly successful merchant (grocer) in the early community of Fults. Although this may have been rental property for McMurtry, it is suspected that the family lived in this dwelling. The original McMurtry House contained four rooms arranged around a central chimney. In the original house, two of the larger rooms probably functioned as a kitchen and parlor, while two of the smaller rooms probably functioned as bedrooms. Enclosing only 575 square feet, this house was slightly smaller than the contemporary I-cottages discussed above (which contained approximately 680 square feet including the rear kitchen wing). Not long after its original construction, a traditional kitchen wing, complete with two working porches and a cellar, was constructed onto the rear of the house. This addition (enclosing approximately 185 additional square feet) increased the size of the house to 760 square feet, only slightly larger than the contemporary I-cottages.

The larger version of this square house form is the one-and-one-half-story Hern House (MO-1996-1-E) which was constructed for a railroad laborer. In 1910, Hern was the only non-skilled worker in Fults that owned a home. The Hern House consists of four nearly equally sized rooms arranged around two chimneys. As before, these downstairs rooms consist of a kitchen, parlor, and two bedrooms. Unlike the previous version, this house has a substantial cellar beneath the kitchen and a sleeping loft on the second story. The sleeping loft contains two rooms. A straight stairway is accessed from the kitchen. The Hern House contains approximately 690 square feet on the ground floor and 455 square feet of space on the second floor (for a total of 1,140 square feet). Although clearly not as large as the I-houses in the community, the Hern House represents a house intermediate between the I-cottage and the I-house.

One common trait shared by the dwellings included in this report is the general lack of exterior ornamentation. Even amongst the larger homes, the exterior detailing is quite modest and often is limited to turned-posts supporting the porch roofs. Several of the more prominent houses (such as the E. Buettner, MO-1996-1-H; Limestall House, MO-1996-1-J; Oelzen House, MO-1996-1-K) constructed for the successful merchants had a central wall dormer facing the street. On the gable end walls, these same houses all had eave returns typical of the early twentieth century revival styles. Another stylistic addition to this house form is the addition of the hip roof to the John Buettner House (MO-1996-1-M).

Whether lower class or upper class, outbuildings were a necessary addition to the early twentieth century household. Summer kitchens were exterior work spaces that complimented the house kitchen. During the hot summer months, many of the more strenuous and messy activities (such as food processing, butchering and washing) were conducted in this outbuilding. Early twentieth century summer kitchens were documented at the North Hursey House (MO-1996-1-C), the Jost House (MO-1996-1-L), and the John Buettner House (MO-1996-1-M). An earlier, nineteenth-century summer kitchen had been incorporated into the fabric of the Fults House (MO-1996-1-G).

Carriage houses, which housed the carriage as well as the horse and potentially the family cow, were also a necessary outbuilding type in the small village setting, especially with the more affluent households. Early twentieth century carriage houses were documented at both the Jost House (MO-1996-1-L) and the Hern Barn (MO-1996-1-P). Although privies were an essential part of this community through the early 1960s, few were present in the community by the middle 1990s. One of the few privies noted during this research was located behind the Bradshaw House (MO-1996-1-I).

Progressive housing improvements common during the early twentieth century in more urban areas of the state were slow to arrive in the small agricultural community of Fults. Improved sanitary conditions (movement away from outdoor privies and the installation of indoor plumbing facilities) and modernized kitchens, two of the major outcomes of this early twentieth century movement, did not arrive in Fults until after World War II.⁶³

2. Condition of Fabric:

One unifying trait of all the buildings documented by this project was their condition. All buildings had been dramatically impacted by the Flood of 1993. The lower stories of these buildings had been stripped of their plaster, lath, trim and doors. In many cases, the buildings were structurally unsound. Shortly after being documented by our research, these buildings were demolished.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions:

The smallest domestic building documented by this research was the single story Ferdinand Buettner House (MO-1996-1-B), as originally constructed. This house measured only 14'-7" by 26'-10". In contrast, the largest dwellings documented in Fults were similar in size to the two-story George Bradshaw House (MO-1996-1-I). The main body of this house measured 16'-6" by 32'-4" and had a two-story kitchen wing that measured 16'0" by 16'-4" in size. For a more detailed discussion of the variation in building size, see II.A.1 (Architectural Character).

2. Foundations:

Quarried limestone was used for several of the earlier house foundations, including the McMurtry House (MO-1996-1-A), the F. Buettner House (MO-1996-1-B), the Hartmann House (MO-1996-1-F), the E. Buettner House (MO-1996-1-H), the Bradshaw House (MO-1996-1-I), the Oelzen House (MO-1996-1-K), and the J. Buettner House (MO-1996-1-M). Except for the J. Buettner House, all of these buildings appear to have been constructed prior to 1911. The J. Buettner House, constructed ca. 1922, was built with stone foundations. The stone used in these construction projects originated from quarries located within the adjacent bluff line.

In ca. 1913, the large concrete elevator (MO-1996-1-O) was constructed for the Nanson Commission Company. After that date, poured concrete seems to have become a common building material. The Hern House (MO-1996-1-E), the North Hersey House (MO-1996-1-C), and the outbuildings at the Jost House (MO-1996-1-L) were all constructed with poured concrete foundations. The earliest of these structures appears to be ca. 1916.

By the post-World War II period, concrete block replaced the use of poured concrete.

3. Walls:

Although most of the buildings in Fults appear to have been covered with horizontal weatherboard, at least one of the early dwellings (the Ferdinand Buettner House; MO-1996-1-B) had been covered with vertical board and batten siding. Although not field verified, it is possible that this siding was procured from local softwoods.

4. Structural System, Framing:

Except for the small summer kitchen documented at the Fults House (MO-1996-1-G), all the buildings in Fults were constructed using balloon-frame technology. A distinctive characteristic of the framing in these houses was the diagonal knee bracing incorporated into the framing of most of these houses. Extending from the sill plate to high on the corner post, this form of knee brace is diagnostic of the German carpenters (Oelzen and Hartmann) that probably constructed these

houses.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

Two traditional house forms (Anglo-American and German-American) were recognized in the Fults community. The distinctive characteristics of these house forms (including variations in their floor plans) is discussed in II.A.1.

2. Stairways:

Central stairhalls, typical of the middle to late nineteenth century I-houses constructed by successful middle class farmers in much of Illinois, were not present in Fults. More traditional enclosed stairways, incorporated into the structure of the kitchen, were common in this rural community. Both straight and winding stairways (all enclosed) were present.

3. Wall and Ceiling Finishes:

Although lath and plaster finishes were common in Fults, particularly with the upper class housing, the use of molded beadboard on the ceilings and enclosing the stairways was common. At the early Ferdinand Buettner House (MO-1996-1-B) the original wall finishes may have consisted of planks covered with stretched fabric (muslin) or wallpaper.

4. Decorative Features and Trim:

On the interior, few ground floor details survived the Flood of 1993, making a comparison of the working class and merchant class housing difficult. Nonetheless, the housing of the more affluent families had more elaborate trim details (particularly bulls-eye corner blocks, plinth blocks and molded baseboard) than the housing associated with the working class.

5. Mechanical Equipment:

a. Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation:

The early twentieth century houses documented by this research were all heated with combination

coal or wood burning cast iron stoves when originally constructed. Apparently, the occurrence of more modern, coal burning, gravity central heating furnaces in Fults during the early twentieth century were rare. Similarly, no fireplaces were present in any of the houses investigated.

b. Lighting:

Initially, all the houses documented by this research were illuminated with the use of kerosene lamps.

Electricity first came to Fults in 1939. The local Rural Electrification Authority Co-op was organized in 1938, and began stringing lines in that year continuing through 1940. As one informant noted, "I doubt if every [one] plugged in immediately, but I suspect that everyone was using electricity by the start of World War II."
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c. Plumbing:

When initially constructed, most of the houses in Fults got their household water from a cistern. Similarly, the early residents used outdoor toilets (privies) throughout the early twentieth century. Running water and indoor toilets were not a fixture of housing in this community until well after World War II. As one informant noted, "Indoor plumbing began to be installed in the fifties. By the late sixties, nearly everyone had plumbing installed. The Fults Tavern did not have indoor plumbing yet at the time it went out of business in 1984. Most of the homes had running water at the kitchen sink for some years before they put in bathrooms. In my particular instance, my parents had running water at the kitchen sink beginning in 1960 and installed an indoor bathroom in 1964. Many of our neighbors also installed bathrooms about that same time. For whatever reason, many homes in rural Monroe County installed bathrooms in the mid-late sixties."⁶⁵

Physical evidence for the introduction of water in the housing in Fults is difficult to document. In contrast, the physical changes wrought upon the

house with the introduction of indoor toilets (and the associated bathtub and sink) is easily noted. Incorporating the bathroom into the larger houses of the community was not a difficult task. As with the George Bradshaw House (MO-1996-1-I), one of the large front rooms (presumably the ground floor bedroom) was partitioned creating an entrance hall and bathroom. At the Eckhardt Buettnner House (MO-1996-1-H), as with many of the working class houses, the bathroom was created by enclosing a portion of a rear porch. In contrast, finding room to place the bathroom into the smaller housing of the community often took a little bit more ingenuity. At the North Hursey House (MO-1996-1-C), a small addition (consisting of a small bedroom and bath) were constructed onto the rear of the building.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Original Architectural Drawings: None available.
- B. Early Views: None available.
- C. Interviews:
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- D. Bibliography:
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E. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated:

Although extensive documentary research was conducted for this project, several additional avenues of research remain open for further work. Throughout this project, the sequence of property ownership was determined primarily from the available tax records located in the Monroe County Treasurer's Office, Waterloo, Illinois. Although these were extremely useful, more detailed information of the sale transactions could be gleaned from the actual deed records. Very little deed research was conducted as part of this project.

One avenue of research that was not pursued thoroughly as part of this work is oral history. Although the number of individuals available to discuss the early history of Fults (and the buildings documented here) is limited, their knowledge of the community is invaluable.

Similarly, the archaeological integrity of the subsurface resources in Fults were not assessed. In some cases, significant structures (such as the Yost Store) were represented only by subsurface resources, having been demolished long before the Flood of 1993. Archaeological investigations could yield a wide range of information regarding these structures and activity that was associated with them. Additionally, subsurface resources (especially filled trash pits, privies, and adjacent middens) associated with these structures have the potential to contribute dramatically to our understanding of early twentieth century lifeways in small agricultural communities such as Fults. Particularly, these resources have the ability to compliment the housing data and help detail the quality of life differences between the social classes in this small agrarian community. The comparison of trash deposits (particularly early twentieth century privy pits) from housing occupied by lower and upper class families in Fults would be fruitful. Similarly, the archaeological investigations around the Jost House (MO-1996-1-0) would be of interest to determine if an earlier nineteenth century component was indeed present at this location. At present, the integrity of these resources is not known. It is suspected that they were impacted by post-flood cleanup activities (especially the demolition of structures and disposal of materials in on-site

disposal pits excavated for that purpose).

PART IV. METHODOLOGY OF RESEARCH

A. Research Strategy:

This documentation project began with an architectural survey of flood damaged properties in Monroe County (including Valmeyer and Fults), Randolph County (including Evansville), and St. Clair County, as well as in Grafton (Jersey County). As a result of the Flood of 1993, over 830 buildings were documented in southwestern Illinois, along the Mississippi River Valley (See Table 1).

The architectural survey of Fults was conducted during the winter of 1993-94 by Mr. Patrick Steele, an employee of Fever River Research (Springfield). This survey included a building by building inventory of every structure within the city limits that had been damaged by the flood waters and was over 50-years of age. Black and white 35mm photographs were taken of all buildings that pre-dated 1940. Select views of building types and street scenes were also documented using color slide film. While in the field, a survey form which documented such items as a building's address, construction materials, and integrity was completed for each of the pre-1940 buildings. Forms were numbered as prepared and keyed to the photographs of each building as well as maps of the community. A copy of each form and photograph of each building is included as an Appendix of the survey report. Although outbuildings were identified on each of the building inventory forms, they were not treated as individual buildings within the survey. Criteria used to evaluate the significance of the properties was based on standard National Register of Historic Places criteria. The results of this survey are detailed in the report "After the Great Flood of 1993: An Architectural Survey of Flood Damaged Harrisonville and Fults, Monroe County, Illinois" which was prepared by Floyd Mansberger, Christopher Stratton and Patrick Steele, Sr.

Table 1

Number of Buildings Documented during the
 Survey and Post-Survey Phases of this Project

	Survey	IL HABS Outline
Rural Randolph County	152	1
Evansville (Randolph County)	16	2
Rural Monroe County	270	10
Harrisonville (Monroe County)	34	6
Fults (Monroe County)	37	14
Valmeyer (Monroe County)	239	27
Grafton (Jersey County)	84	8
Hardin (Calhoun County)	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
Totals	832	69

As part of the survey, several flood damaged properties were indentified as potentially being eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. Upon completion of the survey report, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency determined that Fults had sufficient integrity to be determined eligible to the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district. After a long wait, the participants in the Federal buyout programs were finally identified, and mitigation work was conducted in February and March 1995.

During the mitigation process, our intent was to select a sample of structures with sufficient integrity to document the range of variability in housing stock present in the community, particularly during the initial years of settlement.

B. Actual Research Process:

The mitigation process consisted of documenting the above ground remains of these buildings with line drawings and photographs. While in the field, measurements of the structures were taken, floor plan sketches drawn, and notes on structural details

(including materials used, decorative details, alterations through time, etc) were transferred to a field form. All floor plan drawings (which generally included a basement, first floor, second floor, and roof plan) were drawn at a 1/4" scale. Additionally, 35mm photographs (black and white) were taken of both interior and exterior details.

The field work was hindered by the extremely deteriorated conditions of the housing. Nearly a year and a half had passed since the flood waters had receded. Although many of the houses in Fults had been cleaned out (down to the stud walls) in preparation of rebuilding, many remained untouched with the jumbled pre-flood contents of the house scattered among the flood deposited silts.

In conjunction with the field documentation process, archival research was conducted in both local and regional repositories. This research was conducted to answer site specific questions about each structure and the family that occupied it, as well as to develop an historical context for these buildings.

Back in the Springfield office, the field drawings were digitized using Design-CAD software and printed with the aid of a laser printer. Additionally, the outline formats were written, a selection of photographs were chosen, and 5"x7" prints were made. The photographs were mounted on archival photograph mount cards and the text printed on archival bond paper. Upon completion, a microfiche copy of the report was made and it, with the archival original, was submitted to the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency to be placed on file with the Illinois State Historical Library. All notes, and additional photographs (with negatives) are on file with the Illinois State Museum (an approved curational facility).

C. Archives and Repositories Used:

County records were consulted at the Monroe County Courthouse in Waterloo. At that location, deed records in the Recorder of Deeds Office, tax assessors records in the Treasurer's Office, and naturalization records, death records, as well as probate records in the Circuit Clerks Office were investigated. Of particular usefulness were the early twentieth century tax records which assisted with determining the

sequence of ownership and potential construction dates of these structures. Additionally, the resources of the Monroe County Historical Society (Waterloo) and Waterloo Public Library were investigated.

In Springfield, resources at the Illinois State Library (Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, county atlases, and published histories), Illinois State Historical Library, and the Illinois State Archives (Federal population, industrial and agricultural census returns, and state census returns) were utilized. Additionally, the resources at the Illinois Regional Archives Depository (IRAD) in Carbondale were consulted.

D. Research Staff:

1. Primary Preparer:

These IL HABS forms were prepared by Mr. Christopher Stratton and Mr. Floyd Mansberger, Fever River Research, Springfield, Illinois.

The fieldwork for this project was conducted by Mr. Patrick Steele, Sr. a preservation specialist then living in rural Louisiana, Missouri and working for Fever River Research, Springfield, Illinois. Using Mr. Steele's field notes, Mr. Christopher Stratton, research assistant with Fever River Research, prepared the written outlines for each structure as well as portions of the cover document. Mr. Floyd Mansberger, principal with Fever River Research, coordinated the field work, assisted with the written outline production and authored portions of the cover document. All aspects of this project were under the direct supervision of Mr. Floyd Mansberger, principal investigator, Fever River Research, P.O. Box 5234, Springfield, Illinois, 62705.

2. Photographer:

All field photographs of Fults were taken by Mr. Patrick Steele during the course of the field documentation. Mr. Steele was a preservation specialist then living in rural Louisiana, Missouri and working for Fever River Research. All photographs were processed by the Photographic Services Corporation, Springfield, Illinois.

3. Delineator:

Using Mr. Steele's field notes, Mr. Floyd Mansberger prepared the individual site drawings. These drawings were then digitized, using Design-CAD software, by one of several individuals. CAD operators included Ms. Cynthia Phillippe, Mr. Timothy Townsend, Mr. Vlad Gudzenko, Mr. Gabriel Hagmann, as well as Mr. Christopher Stratton --all employees of Fever River Research.

4. Additional Staff:

Additional typing and editing was conducted by Ms. Cynthia Phillippe, research assistant with Fever River Research.

PART V. PROJECT INFORMATION

During the summer and early fall 1993, the Mississippi River flooded its banks and devastated many communities and rural properties along its course. Two communities in the Monroe Botton that were completely inundated by the Flood of 1993 were Valmeyer and Fults, Monroe County, Illinois.

The levee protecting Valmeyer catastrophically broke on August 1, 1993. Within hours, the community was inundated by 12-13 feet of water. The flood waters temporarily receded by September 1 and returned for a short time on September 10. At that point in time, Valmeyer gave up hope of rebuilding the town at its original location and a new townsite was chosen on the bluff crest overlooking the original community. Ground breaking ceremonies took place at the new townsite on December 18, 1993.

Similarly, Fults was inundated by over 10 feet of water. Fults had a pre-flood population of approximately 90 individuals living within 32 houses. Because of the flood, the community lost over 80% of it residents. After the flood, although many residents relocated to the nearby upland communities, several families remained in the original village.

In response to the flood emergency, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assisted local residents with their immediate needs for food and shelter, as well as long term relief from the threat of flooding. The Federal government

has two land acquisition and relocation programs designed to alleviate damage to families caused by flooding. The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides communities with cost-share funds to purchase flood damaged properties and convert them into open space. Section 1362 of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) allows FEMA to purchase flood damaged properties that carry flood insurance and convey them to a local community to be used as open space.⁶⁶

The work described in this report was conducted by Fever River Research to assist the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in complying with their responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended) and for carrying out a Programmatic Agreement among FEMA, the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation (ACHP), the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA).

ENDNOTES

- (1) Window trim within the John H. Buettner House (MO-1995-1-M) contained a "NIEBRIEGGE AND SUNDAG/VALMEYER, ILL" stencil that had been crossed out with ink pencil and replaced with a "JOHN H. BUETTNER, FULTS, ILL" stencil.
- (2) Walter Lowrie and Walter S. Franklin, editors, American State Papers, Volume II, (Washington, D.C.: Gales and Seaton, 1834), 191.
- (3) J.L. McDonough and Company. Combined History of Randolph, Monroe and Perry Counties, Illinois. (Philadelphia, 1883), 383.
- (4) Ibid.
- (5) Survey 736 (Claim 2046) was granted to Louis Pillet Lasond by virtue of an improvement he had made there; and Louis Villard was granted Survey 484 (Claim 633), near Chaflin Bridge, on similar grounds (McDonough, 1883, 395).
- (6) A copy of this map is found in Clarence Walworth Alvord's The Illinois Country, The Centennial History of Illinois, Volume I, 154. Springfield: Illinois Centennial Commission, 1920.
- (7) This village was attacked in 1753 by a raiding party composed of Fox, Sauk, and Sioux.
- (8) Alvord, 1920, 202.
- (9) McDonough, 1883, 383.
- (10) This is stated in a letter written by James Piggot to Governor Arthur St. Clair in May 1790. A transcript of the letter is found in the American State Papers, Volume I, 20 (Walter Lowrie and Matthew St. Clair Clarke editors, Gales and Seaton Publishers: Washington, D.C., 1832).
- (11) Clarence Walworth Alvord, Kaskaskia Records 1776-1790, Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library, Volume V. Virginia Series, Volume II. Illinois State Historical Library, Springfield, 1909.
- (12) Clarence Walworth Alvord, Cahokia Records 1778-1790,

Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library, Volume II. Virginia Series, Volume I. Illinois State Historical Library, Springfield. The Grand Ruisseau settlement was along Carr Creek in the American Bottom, below present-day Columbia (McDonough 1883, 451).

- (13) During the 1780s and 1790s, Bellefontaine and New Design were the largest communities in Monroe County and served as an initial base for many settlers heading further into the interior.
- (14) Early sources refer to both the creek and lake as "L'Aigle" (which is French meaning "Eagle"), and in at least one instance the area is referred to as the "L'Aigle Settlement" (Alvord 1907:307, 433, 597).
- (15) A blockhouse was built at this location by Nathaniel Hull during the 1780s, and the scattered settlement around the fortification became known as "Hull's Town."
- (16) A contemporary map showing the settlements in the Illinois Country is the "Carte d'une partie du cours du Mississippi, depuis la riviere des Illinois..." drafted by Nicolas de Finiels between 1797 and 1798 (Carl Ekberg and William Folley, editors. An Account of Upper Louisiana, by Nicolas de Finiels, University of Missouri Press, Columbia, 1989).
- (17) This same route was depicted in a 1766 map, drafted by Thomas Hutchins, entitled "A Plan of the Several Villages in the Illinois Country", in Sara J. Tucker's Atlas of Indian Villages of the Illinois Country. (Scientific Papers no. 2. Illinois State Museum, Springfield, 1942), plate 27).
- (18) One of the early saltworks appears to have been located immediately north of the present community of Valmeyer. The second saltworks appears to have been located along the bluff base where the bluff base road crossed the creek at present day Valmeyer. As such, the southern of the two saltworks illustrated on this map probably was located in the community of Valmeyer.
- (19) By the turn of the century (1800), this dramatic stretch of bluffs were simply referred to as "the Rock".
- (20) Stations were often nothing more than fortified houses that provided protection for its owners and their adjacent neighbors in the event of a raid. One of the more notable of these fortifications was Whiteside's Station, located mid-way between present-day Columbia and Waterloo.

- (21) On May 23, 1790, James Piggot of the Grand Ruisseau settlement wrote Arthur St. Clair, who was then Governor of the Northwest Territory, the following:

The Indians, who have not failed one year in four past to kill our people, steal our horses, and at times have killed and drove off numbers of our horned cattle, render it impossible for us to live in this country in any way but in forts and villages, which we find very sickly in the Mississippi bottom; neither can we cultivate our land, but with a guard of our inhabitants equipped with arms.... (Lowrie and Clarke, American State Papers, Volume I 1832, 20)

By 1812, the line of American settlement in Illinois would be marked by a succession of forts and stations.

- (22) McDonough, 1883, 413-414.
- (23) Ibid.
- (24) Ibid.
- (25) Ibid, 414.
- (26) Ibid.
- (27) Ibid, 397.
- (28) Ibid, 50, 319, 449.
- (29) Record of Articles of Corporation. County Clerk's Office, Waterloo, Illinois, A:13.
- (30) Railroad and Warehouse Commission of Illinois. Annual Report of the St. Louis Valley Railroad Company (Springfield, 1902).
- (31) Railroad and Warehouse Commission of Illinois. Annual Report of the St. Louis Iron Mountain and Southern Railway Company (Springfield, 1903).
- (32) Ibid.
- (33) Centennial Atlas Company. Plat Book of Monroe County, Illinois (Waterloo, 1916).
- (34) Lowrie and Franklin, 1834:192.

- (35) Jacob Fults was the oldest son of Jacob Fults, Sr., who migrated to Illinois from Pennsylvania in 1817. The Fults family initially settled on Moredock Lake and then moved to a new location along the bluff base on Survey 309, Claim 1309 in 1829 (Helen Ragland Klein, Arrowheads to Aerojets, Valmeyer, Illinois: Myron Roevers Associates, 1968, 207).
- (36) Brink, 1875:24.
- (37) Ogle 1901:36.
- (38) Ibid.
- (39) Monroe County Deed Records, County Clerk's Office, Waterloo, Illinois, 36:407.
- (40) Klein 1967, 596.
- (41) Monroe County Collector's Books, Treasurer's Office, Waterloo, Illinois, 1905; Klein 1967:596-7; Centennial Atlas Company, 1916.
- (42) Waterloo Republican, 20 April 1904.
- (43) Monroe County Deed Record 35:324; Klein 1967:597.
- (44) Monroe County Surveyor's Book, County Clerk's Office, Waterloo, Illinois, A:87.
- (45) U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Population Schedule: Monroe County, Illinois," 1910:1B, 1920:5B; Monroe County Collector's Books 1906, 1907; Merle Prange, Personal Communication, 1994.
- (46) Monroe County Collector's Books, 1906-1907.
- (47) Klein 1967, 403.
- (48) Monroe County Collector's Book, 1907; Monroe County Deed Record 35:553, 39:119; Centennial Atlas Company 1916.
- (49) Monroe County Surveyor's Book, A:243.
- (50) Centennial Atlas Company, 1916.
- (51) Monroe County Collector's Book, 1910.
- (52) Monroe County Collector's Books, 1913, 1914; Centennial Atlas Company 1916.

- (53) Centennial Atlas 1916.
 - (54) Ibid.
 - (55) U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1920.
 - (56) Monroe County Collector's Book, 1920.
 - (57) Monroe County Surveyor's Book, A:243.
 - (58) Klein, 1967:597.
 - (59) Monroe County Assessor's Files, County Assessor's Office, Waterloo, Illinois, File 15-28-201-008-00080.
 - (60) Klein, 1967:597.
 - (61) Glassie, Henry. Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States. University of Pennsylvania Press: Philadelphia, 1968, 99.
 - (62) Kniffen, Fred. Louisiana House Types. Annals of the Association of American Geographers 26:179-93.
- Jakle, John. The Testing of a House Typing System in Two Middle Western Counties: A Comparison of Rural Houses. University of Illinois, Geography Graduate School Student Association Paper III, Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, 1976.
- (63) The modernization of the family home during the early twentieth century is well summarized by Gwendolyn Wright (1980, 1981).
 - (64) Merrill Prange, Personal communication, March 11, 1996.
 - (65) Merrill Prange, Personal communication, March 11, 1996.
 - (66) The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is authorized by Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Public Law 93-288, as amended).

Final Environmental Assessment; Acquisition and Relocation of the Village of Valmeyer, Illinois. Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, D. C., April 1994.

Final Environmental Assessment; Acquisition of Flood-Damaged Properties in the Village of Fults, Illinois. Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, D. C., July 1994.

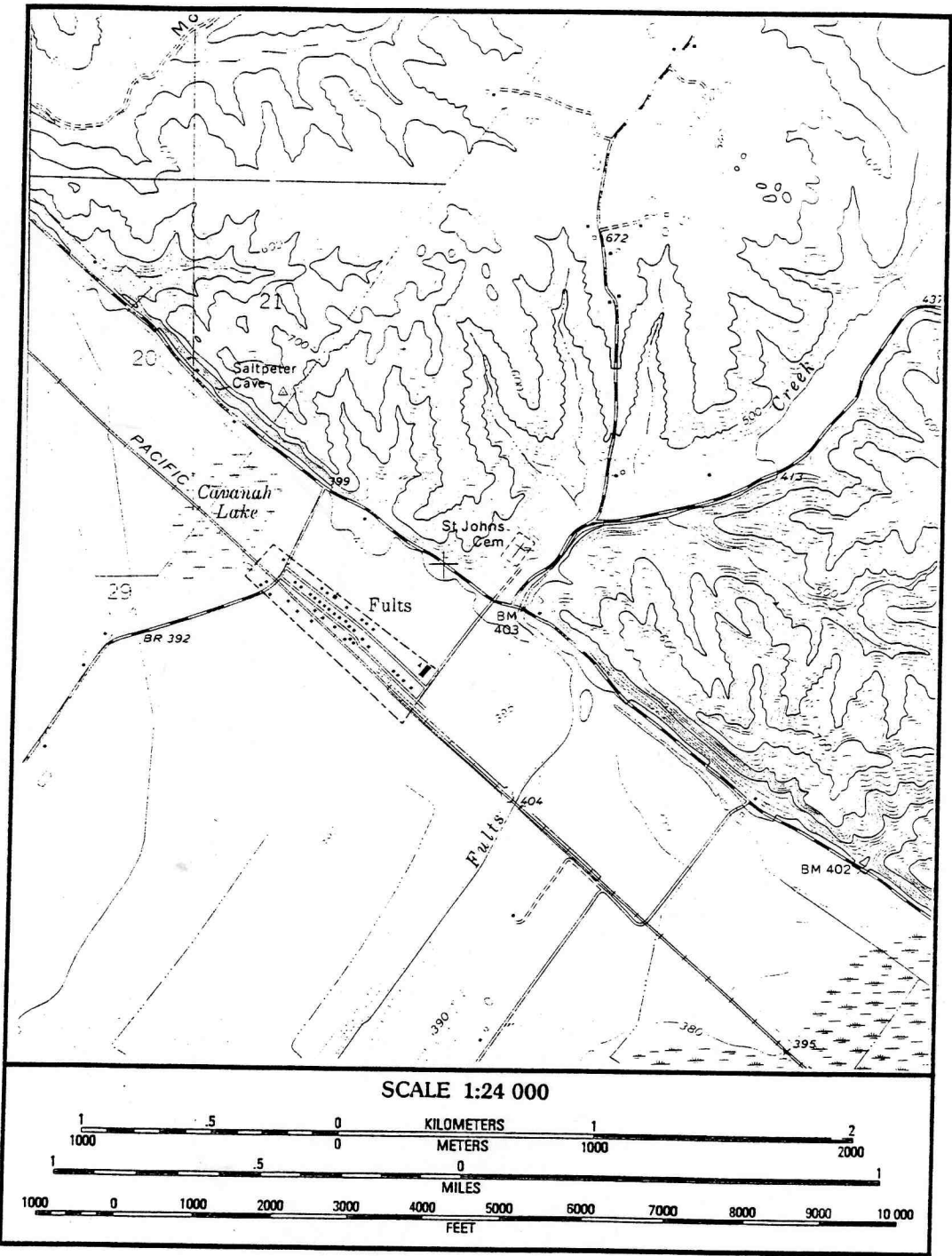


Figure 1. Location of Fults, Monroe County, Illinois (Renault, IL 1970 U.S.G.S. Topographic Map).

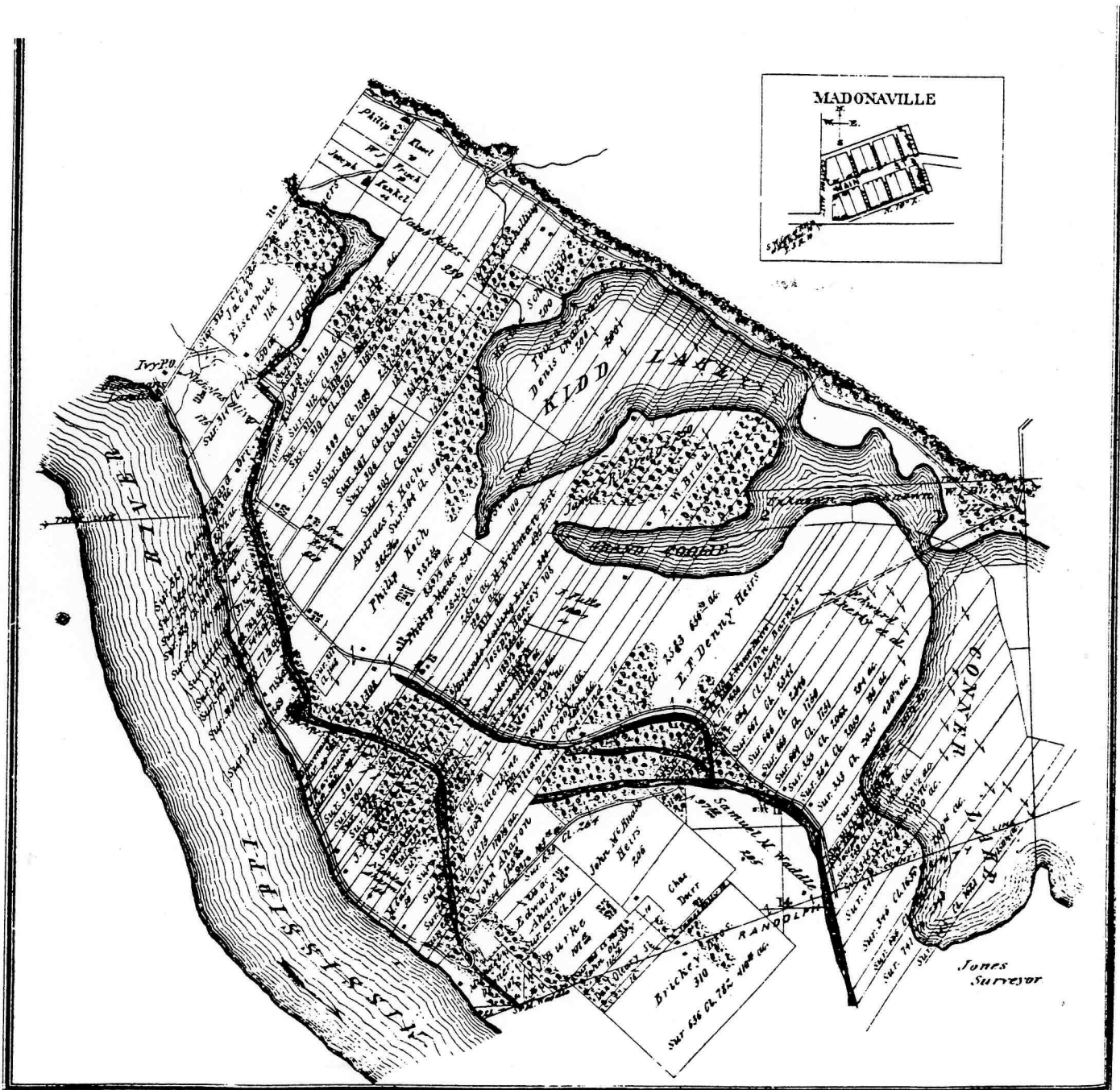


Figure 2. Late nineteenth century detail of Townships 4 and 5 South, Range 10 West, Monroe County, Illinois. The location of the future site of Fults is located northwest of Kidd Lake on land owned by Jacob Fulst (Brink and Company 1875:24).

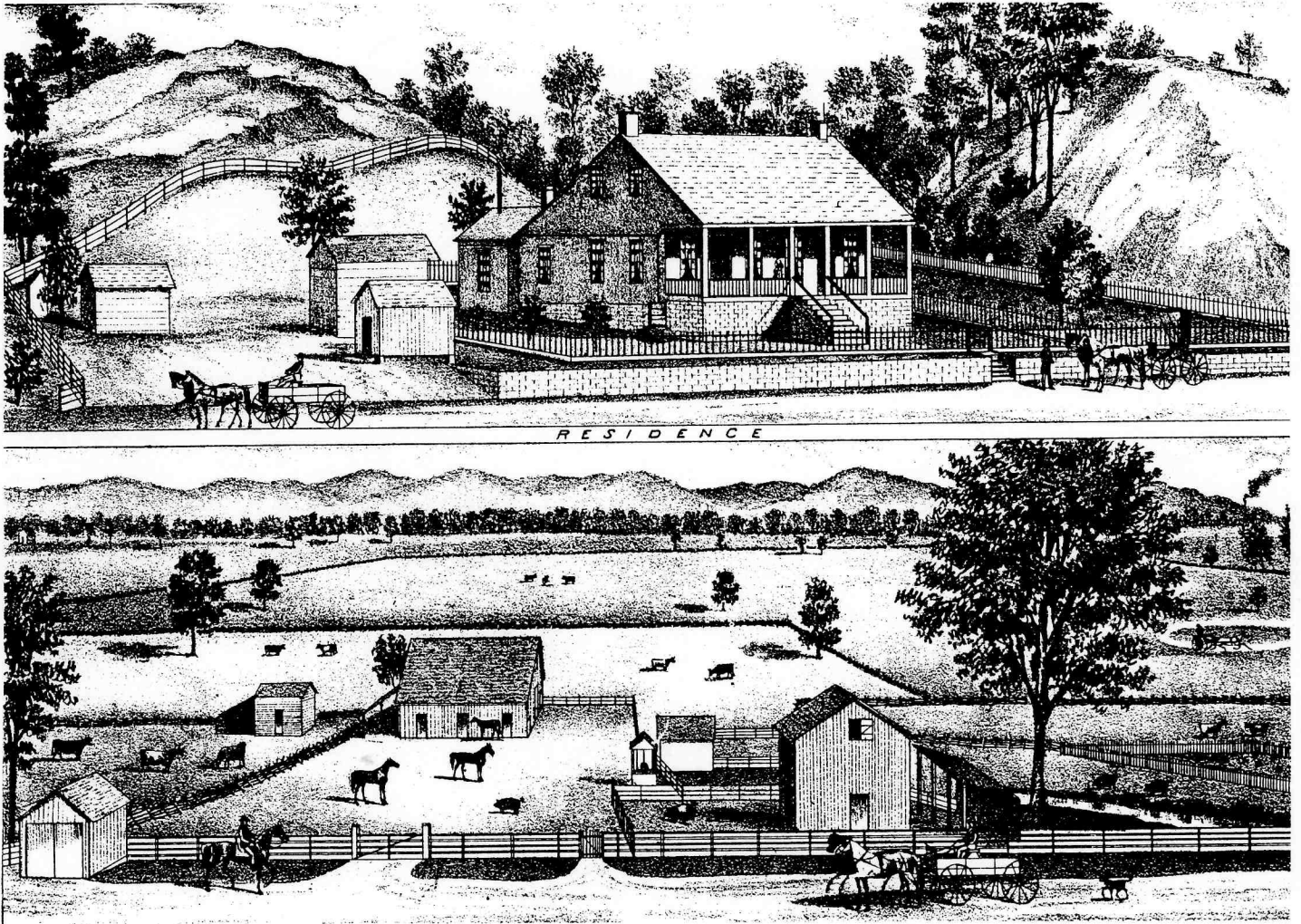


Figure 3. Rural farm residence of Christopher Fults
(McDonough and Company 1883).



Figure 4. Rural farm residence of Jacob Fults
(Klein 1967).

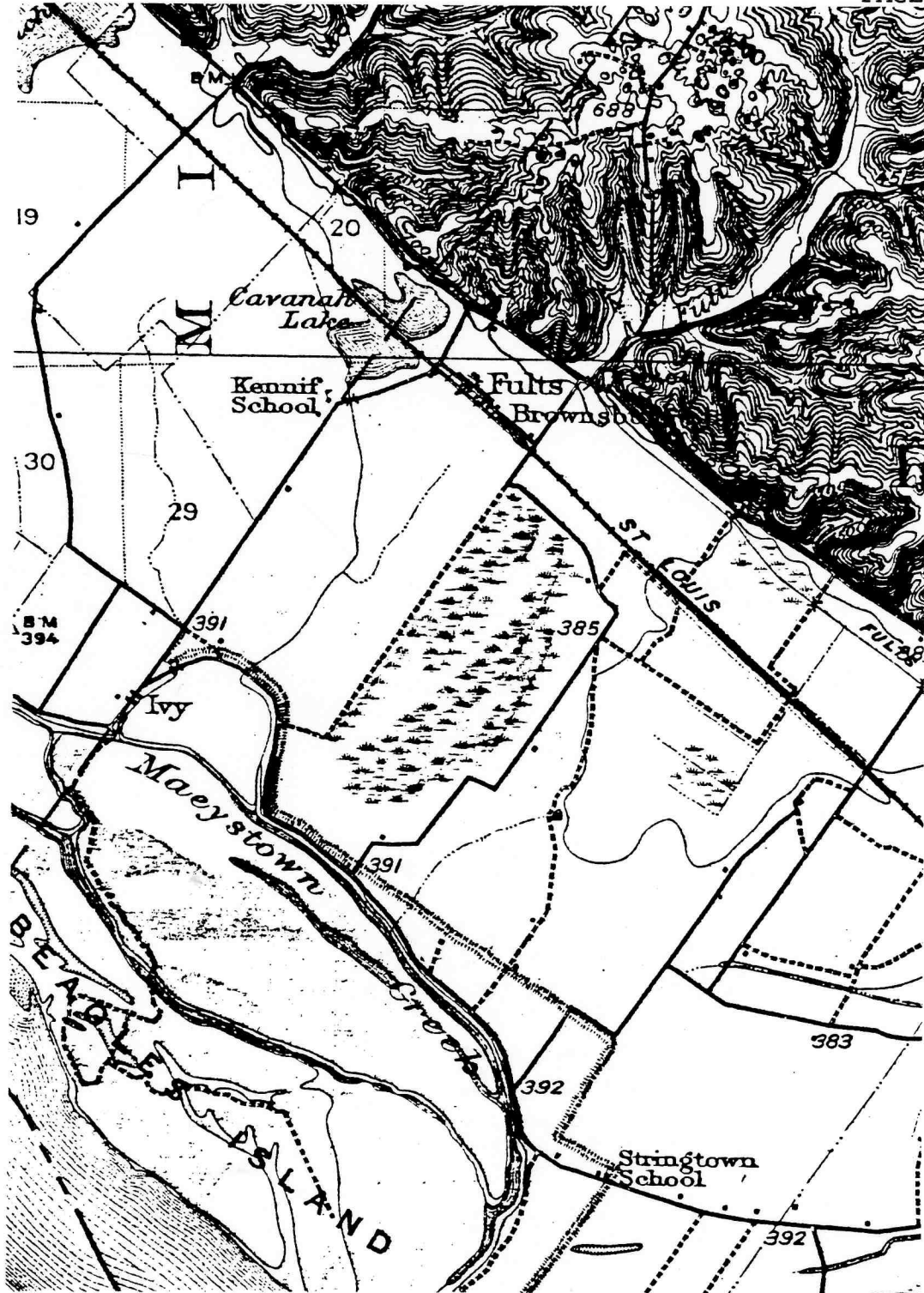


Figure 5. FULTS as depicted in the Renault 1915 U.S.G.S. Topographic Map (based on surveys conducted in 1911 and 1913).

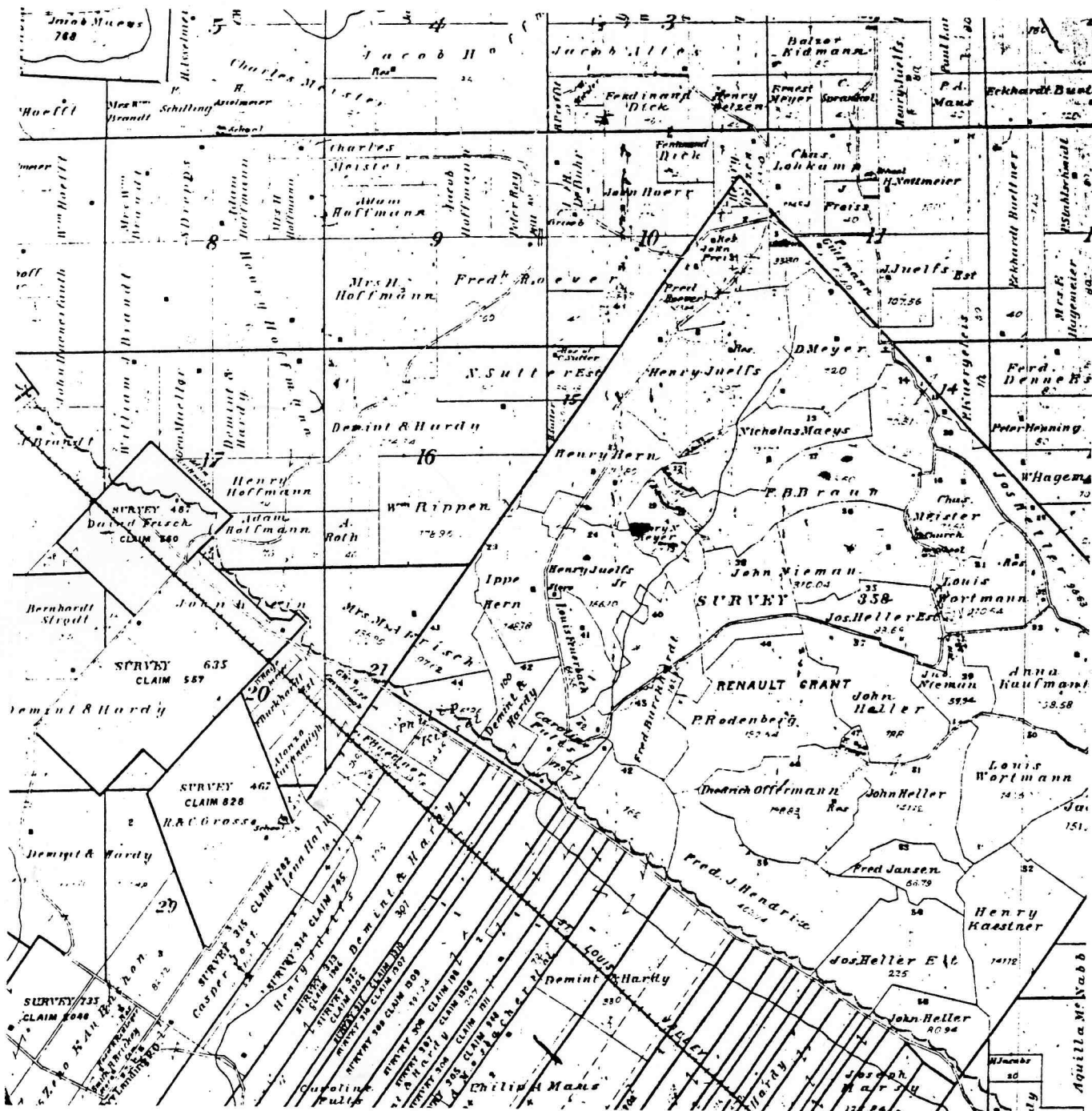


Figure 6. Detail of Fractional Township 4 and 5 South, Range 10 West. Note the location of the St. Louis Valley Railroad line and the newly established town of Fults (Centennial Atlas Company 1901).

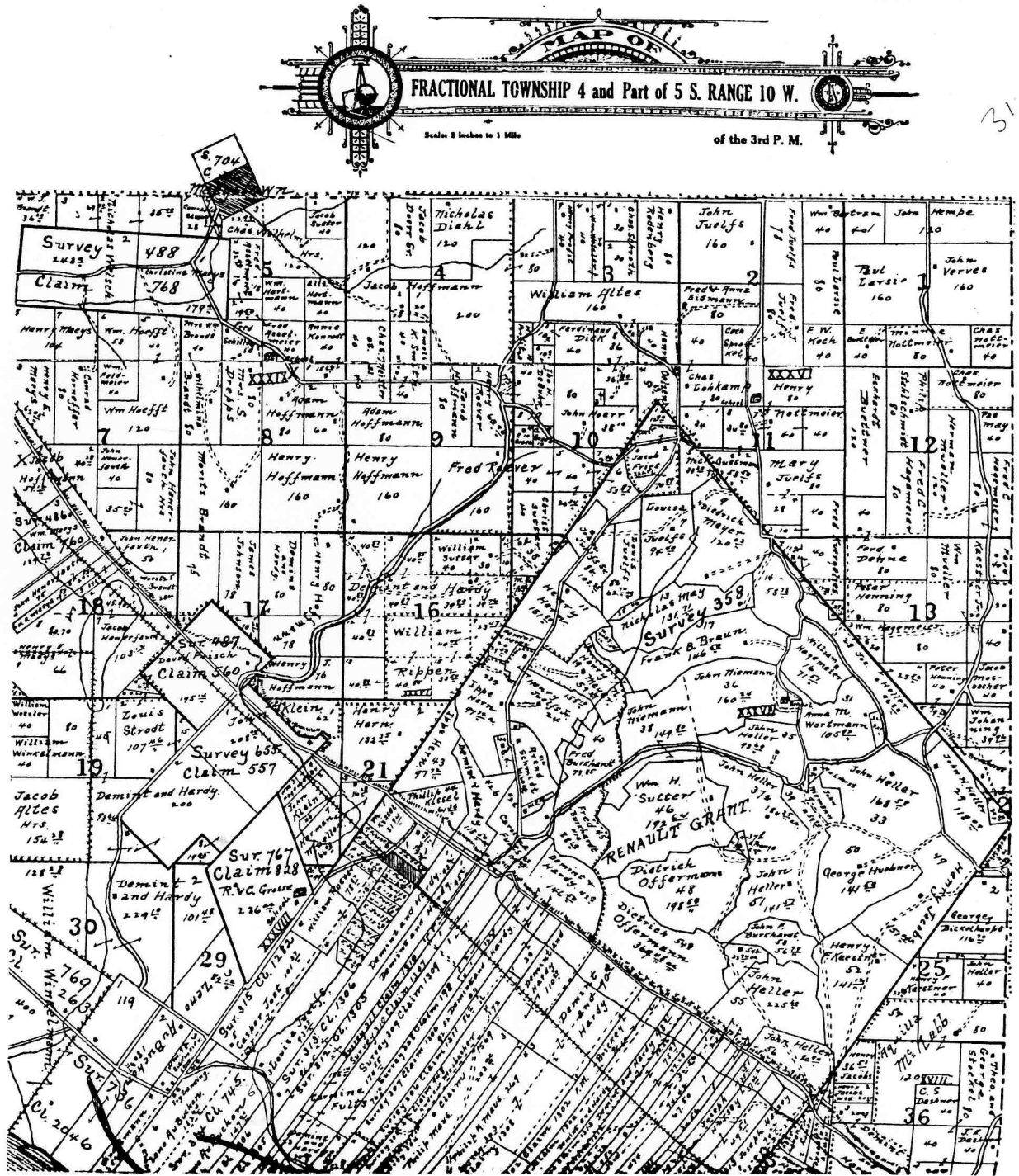


Figure 7. "Outline Map of Monroe County, Illinois" (Centennial Atlas Company 1916). Note the introduction of the St. Louis Valley Railroad Company's rail line through the Mississippi bottom.

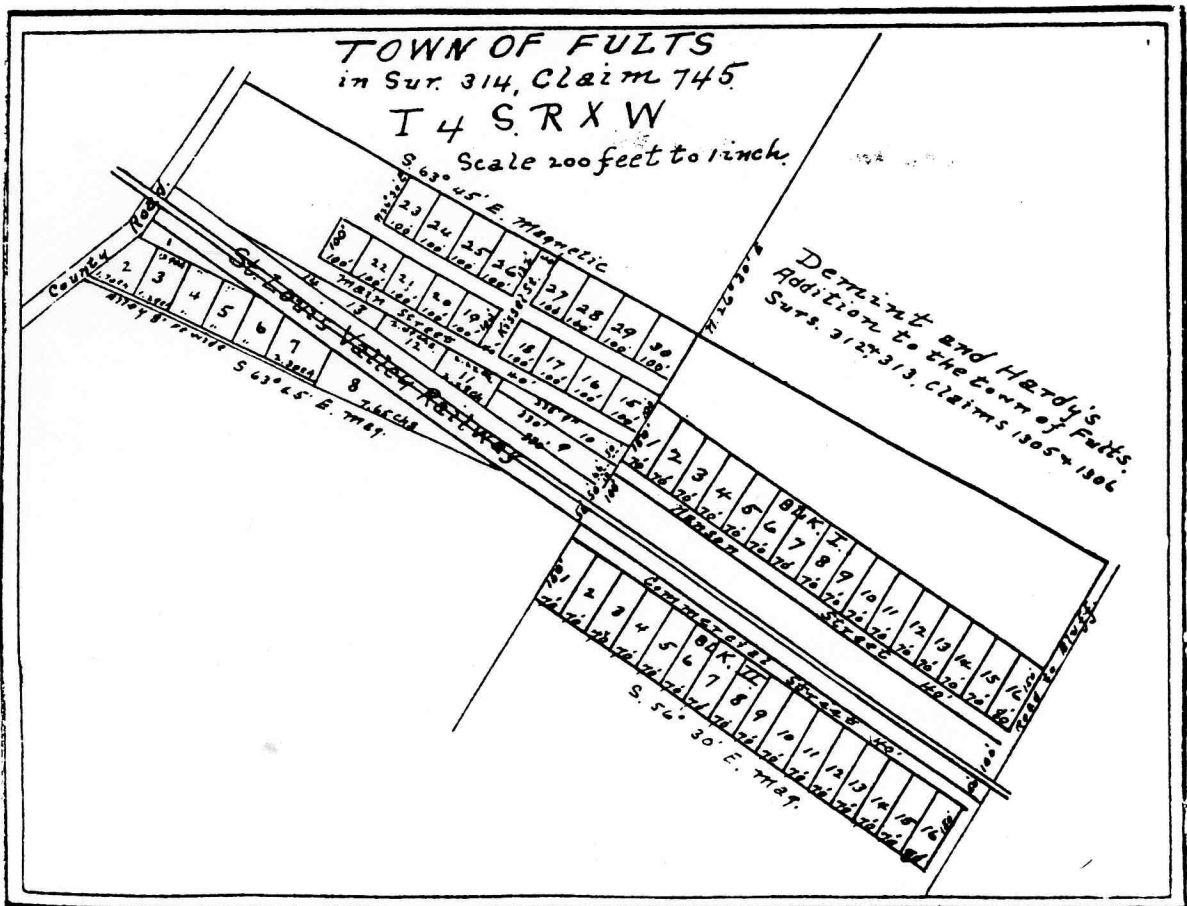


Figure 8. Plat of Fults, Illinois (Centennial Atlas Company 1916).

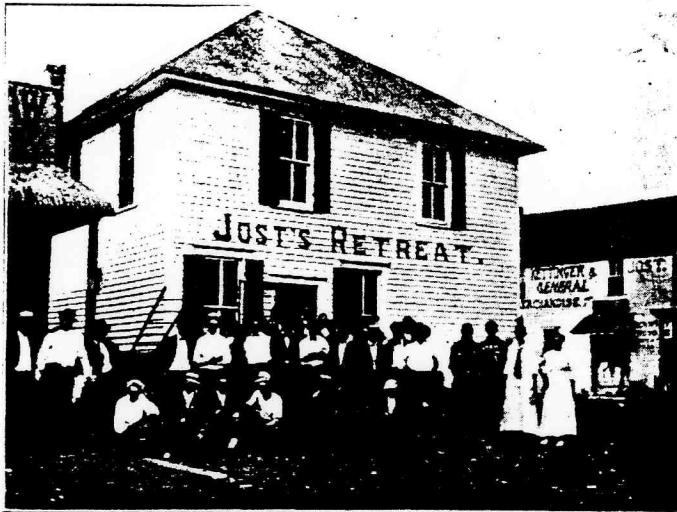


CASPER JOST



WM. H. LIMESTALL

Figure 9. Illustrations of Casper Jost (Ogle 1901) and William Limestall (Centennial Atlas Company 1916).



JOST'S RETREAT.

Among the several businesses that have helped to bring about the rapid growth of the town of Fults, on the Iron Mountain Railway in the southern part of Monroe County, none have contributed more towards this result than "Jost's Retreat," established in 1904 by Casper Jost, and now under the efficient management of Emil Mosbacher, one of the leading young men of that neighborhood.

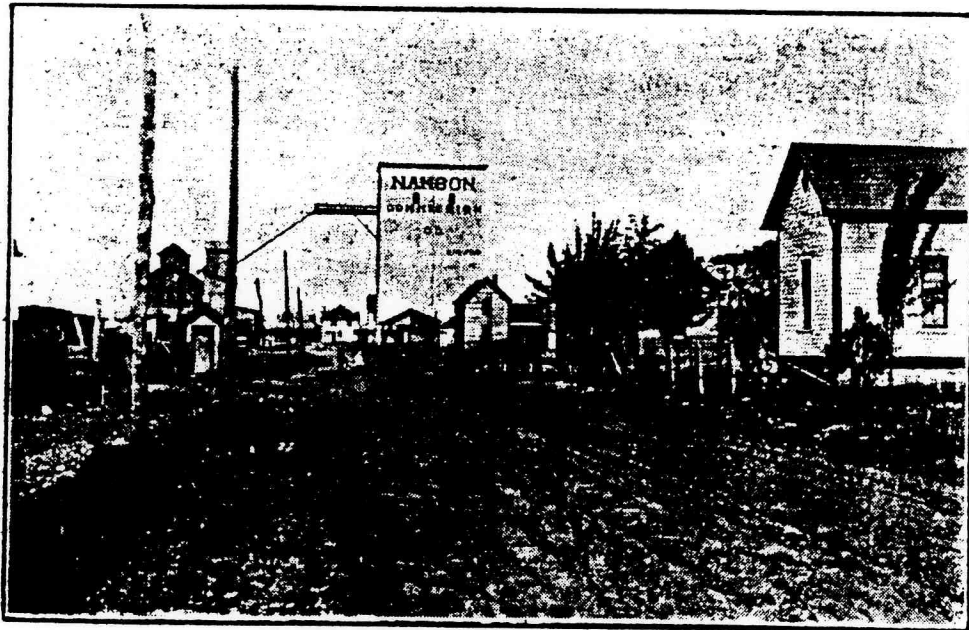
Mr. Jost has spent almost a lifetime in this section, has raised a large family there, and is a representative old-time German citizen, as good as can be found anywhere. He has accumulated quite a good quantity of this world's goods, and is taking life easy in his old days.

The "Retreat," which comprises a first class saloon and hall, was, under Mr. Jost's management, noted far and wide for its hospitality; and its reputation under the present proprietor, Emil Mosbacher, is being ably maintained. It is headquarters for the young people of the neighborhood, who gather quite often for dances, shows, or other forms of entertainment and they appreciate the splendid treatment they receive on such occasions and the splendid order always maintained. Mosbacher's untiring efforts to please his patrons has made him popular with all who know him.



LIMESTALL & BRADSHAW
FULTS, ILLINOIS

Figure 10. Jost's Retreat and Limestall & Bradshaw Store, Fults, Illinois, as illustrated in the Centennial Atlas Company 1916).



NANSON COMMISSION CO.

Figure 11. Historic photograph of the Nanson Commission Company and Fults, Illinois (Centennial Atlas Company 1916).

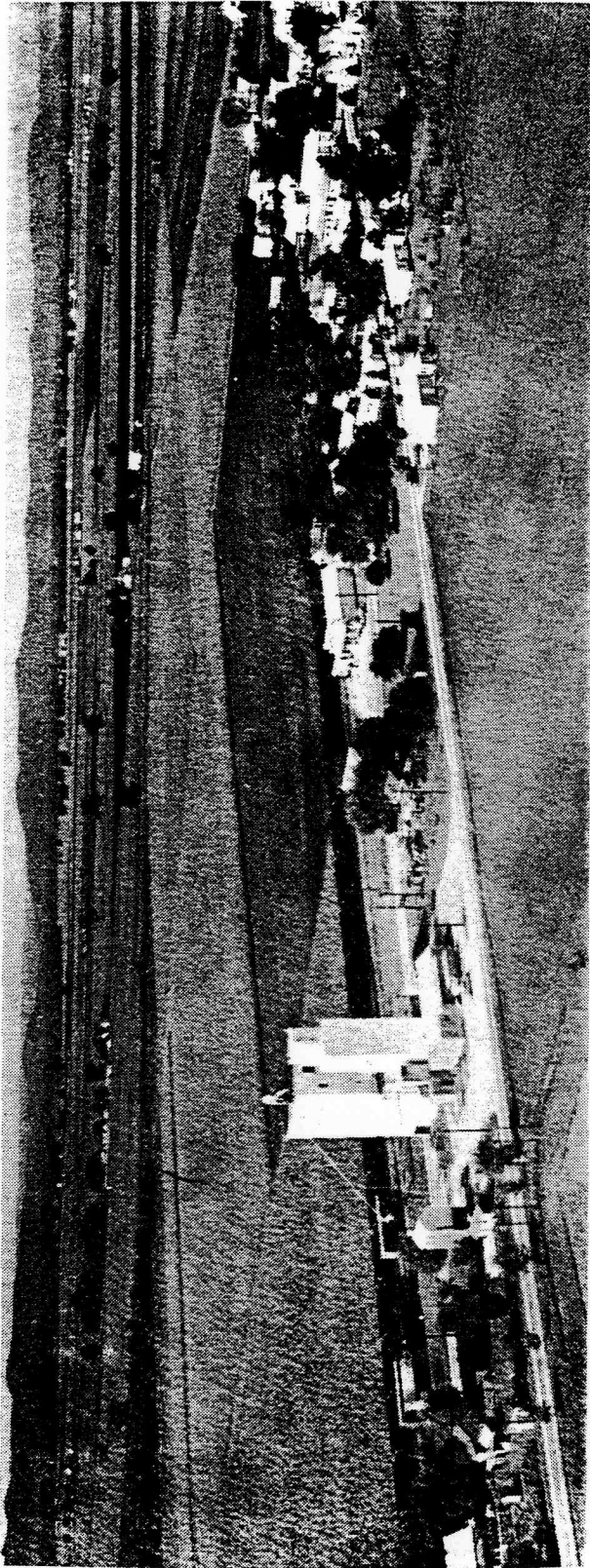


Figure 12. View of Fults, Illinois in 1966 (Klein 1967).

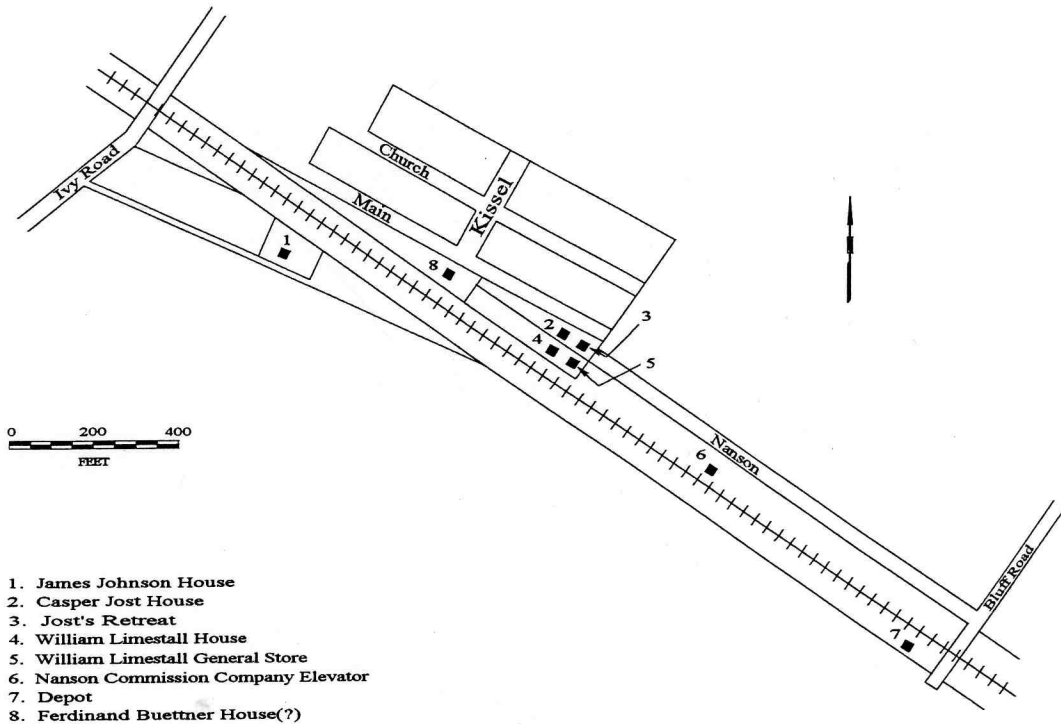


Figure 13. Reconstructed landscape of Fults, Illinois
ca. 1905.

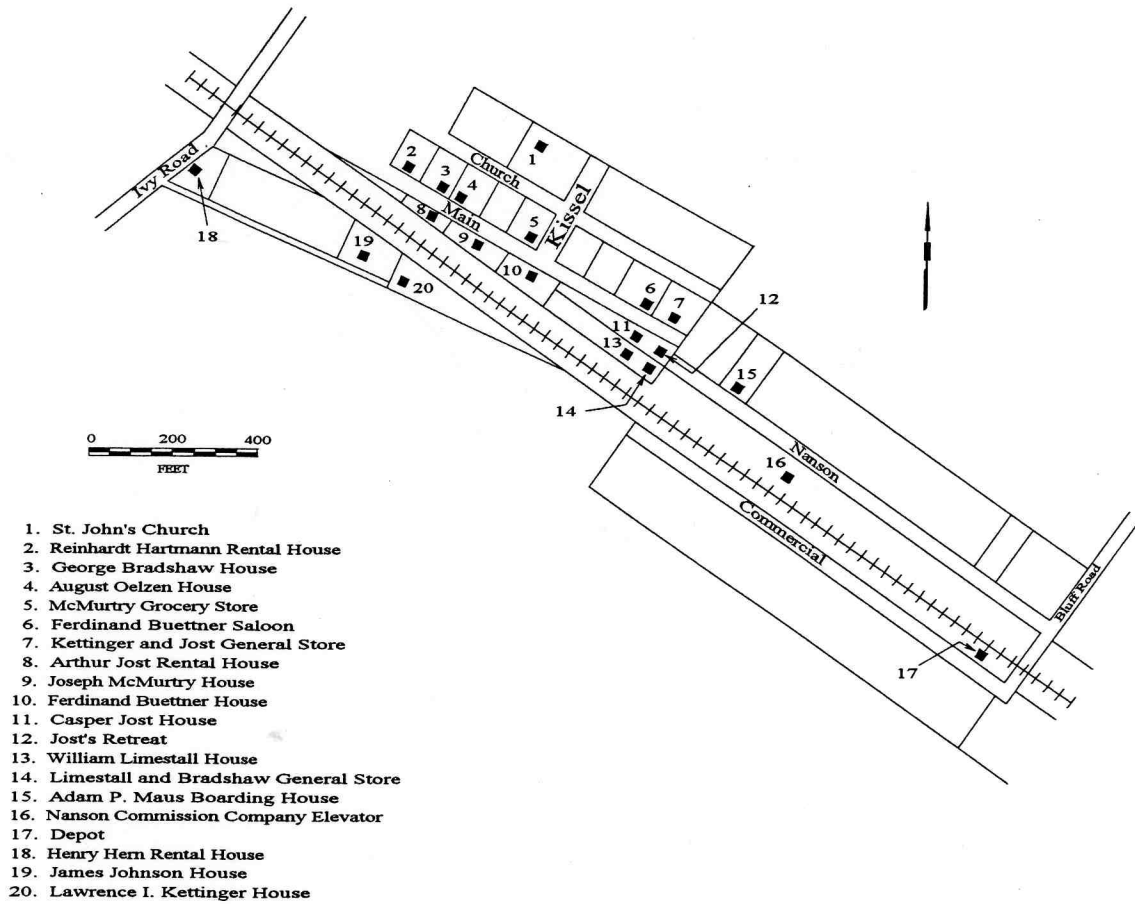


Figure 14. Reconstructed landscape of Fults, Illinois ca. 1910.

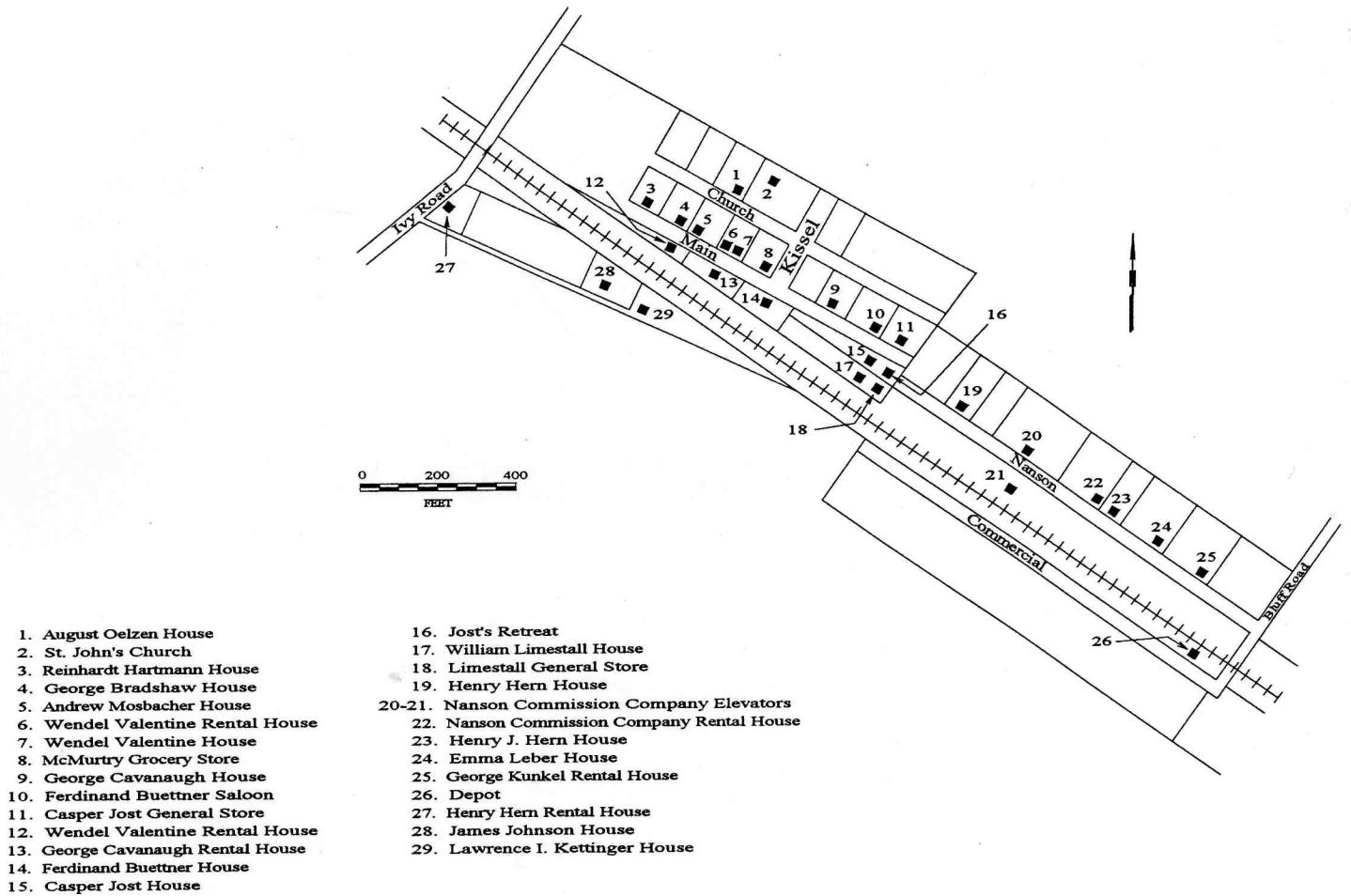


Figure 15. Reconstructed landscape of Fults, Illinois ca. 1920.