

Cover Document  
Valmeyer  
Township 3 South, Range 11 West  
Survey 494, Claim 510  
Monroe County  
Illinois

IL HABS MO-1996-2

PHOTOGRAPHS,  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
COVER DOCUMENT FOR MO-1996-2-A THROUGH MO-1996-2-AA

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

ILLINOIS HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

VALMEYER, ILLINOIS;

COVER DOCUMENT FOR  
IL HABS NO. MO-1996-2-A THROUGH MO-1996-2-AA

Location: Valmeyer is located in Township 3 South, Range 11 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. Valmeyer is situated near the juncture of Illinois Route 156 and Bluff Road and is adjacent to a branch of the Union Pacific Railroad.

Valmeyer 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: Those properties in which the building owners participated in the Federal buyout program have become the property of the Village of Valmeyer.

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

Present Use: None.<sup>1</sup>

Statement of Significance:

A total of 239 buildings were identified during the initial architectural survey of Valmeyer. Of these 239 structures, 158 were identified as pre-dating 1940. These buildings are described in the survey report entitled "After the Great

Flood of 1993: An Architectural Survey of Valmeyer, Monroe County, Illinois" (1994) which was prepared by Patrick Steele, Floyd Mansberger and Christopher Stratton, Fever River Research, Springfield, Illinois.

Of these buildings, several retained sufficient integrity and were determined 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 Valmeyer. 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. 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 eligible to the National Register of Historic Places 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 at least one of the buildings documented during this research (the Elizabeth Meyer House, MO-1996-2-M, constructed ca. 1885) predates the founding of the community of Valmeyer, the majority of the structures discussed here were constructed after the founding of Valmeyer during the first two decades of the twentieth century.

#### 2. Architect:

An architect has been identified with only two buildings in Valmeyer. The Valmeyer Community High School (1938) was designed by the architectural firm of Knoebel and Pabst of Highland, Illinois (See MO-1996-2-V). Additionally, although the architect has not been identified, it is suspected that the Valmeyer village hall and water works building (which was a

federally funded P.W.A. project constructed in 1941-42) was designed by an architect.

In contrast, the vast majority of the buildings documented in Valmeyer were vernacular structures that were built during the early twentieth century by local contractors without the aid of a professionally trained architect. The details for these vernacular structures generally came from the suite of plans that the local contractor/builder was familiar with. Such is one of the defining characteristics of vernacular building traditions.

Many of the plans for the more formal, non-traditional houses of the community probably originated from pattern/plan books which were common during the early twentieth century. The Moskop House (MO-1996-2-S) is very similar to a house advertised in the 1916 issue of the Montgomery Ward and Company's Book of Homes. Similarly, the plans and method of construction (poured concrete and concrete block) for the Miller House (MO-1996-2-I) probably originated from a contemporary pattern/plan book. Although this particular house has not been identified within any of the period plan books, it is very similar to those illustrated in the Radford Architectural Company's Cement Houses and How to Build Them (1909).

By the 1920s, the non-traditional Bungalow house forms (such as the Elmer Meyer House, MO-1996-2-A, constructed ca. 1928, the Ritzel House, MO-1996-2-B, constructed ca. 1922, and the Niebrugge House MO-1996-2-G, constructed ca. 1938) were being selected from published plan books (such as Hodgson's Practical Bungalows and Cottages for Town and Country, 1906).

It is also suspected that the Salt Lick Milling Company Elevator (MO-1996-2-AA) probably was designed by an unidentified engineer.

3. Builders, Contractors, and Suppliers:

The majority of the buildings identified in Valmeyer were simple vernacular structures and the specific builder of these buildings is unknown. Nonetheless, several early building contractors were identified as living within the community of Valmeyer during the early twentieth century period of significance.

Three house carpenters were identified in the 1910 Federal census for Valmeyer. At that time, Adam Maus (31-year old, and married), Paul Sensel (29-year old and married), and Frank Pflasterer (22-year old and single) were practicing the carpenter trade in Valmeyer. All three carpenters were Illinois born. Whereas Maus and Sensel both had Illinois-born parents (ie. were of third generation German ancestry), Pflasterer's father was German-born (second generation German ancestry). The Illinois-born character of these tradesmen is reflective in their handiwork. The distinctive Germanic framing techniques evident in the the houses documented in the town of Fults (See MO-1996-1) is not prevalent in Valmeyer --indicative of the third generation German craftsmen in this community.

Prior to the completion of the railroad line, building supplies (particularly timber) often were procured from local sources. A sawmill, established by the 1860s, was one of the early industries associated with the Meyer family. As late as 1910, a local sawmill was in operation in the vicinity of Valmeyer. The 1910 Federal Census indicates the presence of a sawmill engineer as well as several woodcutters employed by the sawmill. Nonetheless, the introduction of the railroad dramatically affected the success of the local sawmills. By the 1910s, the local sawmills had declined in importance and the use of non-local, southern woods (predominately yellow pine and cypress) in the construction trades predominated. Few houses in Valmeyer were constructed of local hardwoods. In many of the smaller surrounding communities, such as Fults, local sawmills persisted well into the twentieth century and continued to supply the local market with construction grade lumber. By 1920, although sawmills were still being operated by local farmers, the census of Valmeyer did not record the presence of the specialized occupation of "sawmill engineer".

By 1904, a lumber yard had been established in Valmeyer and was supplied with a wide range of southern lumber and processed building materials. Within a few years, this lumber yard had established itself as the leading lumber yard in the region. The lumber yard was initially operated by Adam Hoffmann, Jr. and Joseph Meyer but was sold to Henry J. Niebruegge and Theodore M. Sondag in 1906. Theodore Sondag's son (William) was the manager of the firm at that time. Throughout the

early twentieth century this firm remained in the Niebruegge and Sondag ownership.<sup>2</sup>

4. Original Plans:

Except for the Valmeyer High School (MO-1996-2-V), no original plans exist for any of the buildings in Valmeyer. It is suspected that formal plans for the majority of these vernacular buildings never existed, and that they were constructed by the local carpenter/builder using traditional house forms common within the region. The bungalow house forms documented within this community have not been identified within any of the standard plan books common during this period. The plans once associated with these buildings have long since disappeared.

5. Alterations and Additions:

None of the buildings documented in Valmeyer 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 the 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.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup> 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".<sup>5</sup> 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. Philippe<sup>6</sup>, 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.<sup>7</sup> In addition, it also depicts the primary Indian villages in the Bottom, including a Michigamea village adjacent to St. Philippe.<sup>8</sup> At the time the map was published, these villages were among the largest and the most important in French Louisiana. They served as commercial and cultural entrepots, while the countryside between them provided wheat and other foodstuffs needed in French settlements further south. The French population in American Bottom during this period is estimated to have numbered between 1500 and 2000 people; Kaskaskia alone may have had over 600 people living in it.<sup>9</sup>

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 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.<sup>10</sup> 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.<sup>11</sup> 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.<sup>12</sup> 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.<sup>13</sup> A third upland, American community was founded at New Design, five miles south of Bellefontaine.<sup>14</sup>

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 County 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.<sup>15</sup> There was also a concentration of American settlement along Maeystown Creek in the Chaflin Bridge area.<sup>16</sup>

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).<sup>17</sup> 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.<sup>18</sup>

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".<sup>19</sup> 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.<sup>20</sup> 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"<sup>21</sup> 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.<sup>22</sup> 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.<sup>23</sup> 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.<sup>24</sup>

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.<sup>25</sup>

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.<sup>26</sup> 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.<sup>27</sup>

Another significant Bottom community, was Ivy Landing, which was situated along the Mississippi River 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 up mercantile business. A blacksmith shop was opened there as well, and by 1883, Ivy Landing could count a half dozen buildings in its environs.<sup>28</sup>

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 agricultural 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 2500 inhabitants, and it was rivaled by Columbia, which had a population of over 2200. The prosperity of both these towns had been significantly enhanced when the St. Louis and Cairo Railroad began operating through them in 1875.<sup>29</sup> 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.<sup>30</sup> 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.<sup>31</sup>

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.<sup>32</sup> The latter company was conglomerate that operated slightly over 1,815 miles of railroad 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, had placed it in operation.<sup>33</sup>

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.

In the Monroe Bottom the two 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).<sup>34</sup> 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 the right to erect a line of grain elevators along its right-of-way. Nanson started work on these elevators in 1902, and "in rapid succession erected them at Valmeyer, Maeyes, Fults and Renault in [Monroe C]ounty; Prairie du Rocher, Modoc and Riley's Lake in Randolph; Jones' Ridge, Raddle, Jacobs and Grimsby in Jackson, and Wolf Lake in Union counties."<sup>35</sup>

Valmeyer is situated on Survey 494 (Claim 510) within the Monroe Bottom. This 400 acres of land on which Valmeyer was later to develop, was first claimed by Tobias Brashier on February 12, 1799.<sup>36</sup> Entry three in the land office book entitled "Claims to Lands in the Illinois Confirmed by the Different Governors, Kaskaskia District, 1784-90" stated that Tobias Brashier was entitled to 400 acres of land near the north end of the Large Eagle Lake. This same entry noted that it was "quere as to the causes by which it is claimed..." Later, the same source noted (in entry 165) that "Tobias Brashears and the heirs of John Ellison" were entitled to

a tract of land in the Mississippi Bottom, joining to the South end of the Eagle Lake, improved in 1782, settled on by Brashears in 1783, who lived on it until 1789 when he died... another piece of land in the same bottom, about a mile and a half from the mouth of the Eagle Lake, by virtue of a power of attorney from Tobias Brashears as guardians of Ellison's children. Another piece of land between the Eagle lake on the edge of [the] Rocks. Settled in 1783 and in the possession of Benjamin Byron and his family ever since..."

The exact location of these late eighteenth century sites, which were located in the immediate Valmeyer vicinity, is

unknown at present.

Documented on Collot's late eighteenth century map of the Monroe Bottom, in the vicinity of what was to become Valmeyer, were two salt works. These salt works were located at what was known in the nineteenth century as "Salt Lake Point." Unfortunately, little is known about the eighteenth century exploitation of these salt works. By the early nineteenth century, the salt deposits here were exploited by General John Edgar, who started manufacturing the salt for trade in 1802. Edgar's operation was one of the first American adventures of its kind in the West and was apparently a lucrative one. Land "within the limits fixed with the Kaskaskia Indians conformable to an Act of Congress passed the 26th March 1804" and described as "a certain tract of land situate of lying in the county of St. Clair known by the name of L'Aigle [The Eagle] Salt works..." was purchased by John Edgar prior to 1804. While the exact location of Edgar's salt works is unknown, it is suspected that L'Aigle is the northern of the two saltworks indicated on the Collot map.<sup>37</sup> Ownership of the L'Aigle Salt Works eventually passed from Edgar on to other parties, and there were at least twelve "wells" sunk over the years.<sup>38</sup>

By the 1820s, American settlers were settling on the higher lands within the Monroe Bottom and improving them for agricultural purposes. By the 1850s, a mature agricultural landscape had developed. In April 1857, 331.2 acres in Survey 494 (Claim 510) were purchased by Fridolin Meyer.<sup>39</sup> Meyer had immigrated to the United States from Switzerland in 1833 and had lived in New Orleans and St. Clair County, Illinois before finally settling in the Monroe County in 1849. In partnership with Francis Gauen and H. Kettler, Meyer purchased the "Mill Tract" in Waterloo in 1851 and entered the flouring business --an enterprise he was to remain a part of until his death in 1858. In June 1857, he sold his land holdings in Survey 494 to his sons Jacob, Frederick, and Joseph.<sup>40</sup>

It was following this transaction that Frederick Meyer moved to his Monroe Bottom landholdings (Survey 494) and commenced farming operations there. Aside from his agricultural pursuits, Frederick erected a saw mill on his property which found a ready business in supplying fuel for steamboats stopping at nearby Harrisonville Landing.<sup>41</sup> He and his brothers also ran a dry goods store in Harrisonville for a time. In March 1862, Frederick, Joseph, and Jacob Meyer purchased Lots 5 and 6 of Survey 494, securing them complete

ownership of the 400-acre tract.<sup>42</sup>

While Survey 494 appears to have remained under joint ownership of the Meyer brothers for over a decade after their initial acquisition of the land, Frederick is believed to have been the primary manager of the property. His brother Jacob seems to have been the head of the family's commercial ventures. Aside from the store in Harrisonville, Jacob at various points in time ran mercantiles in Glasgow City and at Smith's Landing. He was also involved in the brewery business in St. Louis with his brothers for about a year. When Jacob did finally enter active farming in 1874, he did so on a 900-acre farm located in Township 2 South, Range 11 West, not on Survey 494.<sup>43</sup>

Frederick Meyer's occupation of Survey 494 is pointed to by the 1870 census of Monroe County, which lists him as a resident of Township 3 South, Range 11 West and notes him as a "farmer." His household that year included his wife Elizabeth (nee Pflasterer), two young sons named George and Charles, and five farm laborers. Aside from owning real estate valued at \$50,000, Frederick was listed in the census as having a personal estate assessed at \$2,500.<sup>44</sup>

A county atlas published in 1875 designates Survey 494 as the property of "F. Meyer", and indicates that the future site of Valmeyer was largely devoid of developments at that time. The only structure shown in the vicinity of the town site is a structure (presumably Frederick Meyer's residence) located approximately in the center of Survey 494, immediately north of a the Waterloo to Harrisonville Road. The latter road dropped into the floodplain through Dennis Hollow. At the mouth of the hollow it intersected another road that ran north along the bluff base. Survey 494 is depicted in the atlas as being virtually cleared of timber, and it is suspected that most of its acreage was probably devoted to agriculture.<sup>45</sup>

Frederick Meyer died in January 1883 at the age of 51. The probate records concerning his estate indicate that at the time of his death he was farming some 1,300 acres in the Townships 2 and 3 South, Range 11 West. Altogether, at the time of his death, these properties were valued at \$71,376, while the 400 acres in Survey 494 alone were assessed at \$28,000. Following Frederick's death, Elizabeth Meyer relocated to Waterloo, leaving her eldest son, George, in charge of the old homestead and the family farm. Two years later, however, she moved back to the Bottom, occupying a new house that had been erected for her on the north side of

Moredock Lake (See MO-1996-2-M).<sup>46</sup>

By 1901, Survey 494 was still owned by the Meyer Family, but the tract had come to be divided between Frederick and Elizabeth Meyer's children and grandchildren: the couple's youngest son, Joseph F. had acquired 19.34 acres in the northwest corner of the survey, above the southern extension of Moredock Lake; another son, Charles, had come into possession of 48.40 acres in the southwest quarter of Survey 494; and the remaining 335.07 acres were owned by the George F. Meyer Heirs.<sup>47</sup> The family's land holdings located elsewhere in Township 3 South, Range 11 West and in adjacent Township 2 South, Range 11 West had also been divided between the children by this time.<sup>48</sup>

A county atlas published in 1901 indicates two houses situated within Survey 494. The location of one of these appears to correspond to the family homestead which was depicted in the 1875 plat. It is suspected that this house was occupied at this time by Charles Meyer and his family. The second house documented on the 1901 plat, which was located in the northwest corner of the property, was the dwelling erected for Elizabeth Meyer in 1885. By this time, the Elizabeth Meyer House was occupied by Joseph F. Meyer and his family. The route of the Waterloo and Harrisonville Road through Survey 494 in the 1901 atlas is basically the same as that shown in 1875. The bluff base road, however, appears to have been slightly re-routed. Rather than intersecting the Waterloo and Harrisonville Road at Dennis Hollow, as in the earlier plat, the road passes straight south and joins the latter road a short distance east of the old Meyer homestead. Another fixture of the plat is the Denis Hollow Cemetery which is located along the bluff base near the eastern edge of Valmeyer.<sup>49</sup>

The most significant change depicted in the 1901 plat is the projected route of the St. Louis Valley Railroad, running through Survey 494, between the bluffs and Moredock Lake. Constructed between 1901 and 1903, this railroad served as the catalyst for the foundation of Valmeyer. Before the town was even conceived, its future location was selected by the railroad company to be a depot and pumping station site.<sup>50</sup> Aside from the latter facilities, the railroad also built a side track that ran off of the main rail line to a rock crushing plant situated near the base of the bluffs. A quarry had been opened at this location to provide balast for the rail bed. Associated with the quarry was a large boarding house (known as the Cottage Hotel) which also operated as a saloon and store.<sup>51</sup> Subsequent to these

developments, in the summer of 1902, the railroad leased out a section of their right-of-way, adjacent to the depot, to the Nanson Commission Company for the construction of a grain elevator.<sup>52</sup>

The character of the early transient railroad population in Valmeyer is reflected in the 1910 Federal population census. Although the census documents the railroad work crew that was laying the second rail line through the community in that year, the work crew was camped in tents immediately outside of Valmeyer and may be reflective of the character of the work crew that passed through the region in 1902-03. Within the work camp was the railroad manager, two foremen, timekeeper, bookkeeper, blacksmith, stonecutter, boiler maker, waterman, ironworker, axle turner, engineer, moulder, cobbler, shoemaker, carpenter, cook and two waiters. Although a few of these individuals were foreign born, the majority of these relatively skilled workers were American-born, English speaking, U. S. citizens. In contrast, there were an additional 81 laborers documented in this camp. Approximately 55 of the laborers were foreign-born, the vast majority being non-English speaking Bulgarians. Only six individuals were indicated as being foreign-born, English speaking Germans. Based on the clustering within the census, it would appear that there was a strong segregation between the Bulgarian laborers and everyone else.<sup>53</sup>

In September 1902, Victor E. Castelli<sup>54</sup> filed a plat for the the town of "Meyer City" (later renamed Valmeyer). Situated in the middle of Survey 494, this community straddled the St. Louis Valley Railroad and was platted to take advantage of the pre-existing road network. Block 1 of the new town, which consisted of 13 lots, covered the stretch of ground between the railroad and the bluff line road and lay immediately north of the Waterloo and Harrisonville Road. Block 2, with fifteen lots, was situated on the south side of the latter road, and was flanked on the east by the railroad. Block 3, with seven lots, was situated on the east side of the railroad, south of the Waterloo to Harrisonville Road. Within Valmeyer proper, the Waterloo and Harrisonville Road was named Main Street and the bluff base road Lake Street. In addition to these major thoroughfares, Moredock Street was platted as were First and Second Streets, running parallel to the railroad right-of-way.<sup>55</sup>

Indicative of the bustling railroad activity in the area, the first commercial building constructed in Valmeyer was



TABLE 1  
PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS,  
VALMEYER (1905)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Block</u>	<u>Lots</u>	<u>-- Assessed Value --</u>	
			<u>Real Property</u>	<u>Personal Property</u>
Victor Castelli	1	*	\$ 380	\$ 45
Castelli & Graziano	1	1	\$ 320	\$1,040
Oscar Bilzing	1	6,7	\$ 250	\$ 20
Dr. Lee	2	2	\$ 70	\$ 110
Victor Castelli	2	1,11-15	\$ 45	\$ --
John Weist	2	8,9	\$ 100	\$ 10
Fred Wisenborn	2	10	\$ 50	\$ 10
Peter Sensel	2	3	\$ 240	\$ 45
William Welsch	2	5,6,7	\$ 290	\$ 60
Peter Sensel	2	4	\$ 40	\$ --
Victor Castelli	3	1-3,5-7	\$ 30	\$ --
Louis Mueller	3	3-4	\$ 185	\$ 80
Victor Castelli		**	\$ 5	\$ --

- \* Castelli's landholdings in Lot 1 consisted of all but Lots 1, 6, and 7
- \*\* Undesignated lot 70'x397' in size immediately north of Moredock

the Solomon Harrison Tavern. This building, which was a simple, single story, frame structure (which measured only 20'x30') was built for Solomon Harrison in the late summer of 1902.<sup>56</sup>

Within the first year of the platting of Valmeyer, there were five commercial buildings constructed in the town. Besides the Harrison Tavern, these included Oscar Bilzing's tavern and boarding house (constructed in 1903), Louis Mueller/Miller's Globe Hotel (a large 2-1/2-story, combination boarding house and tavern constructed in 1903), Peter Sensel's tavern and boarding house (a two-story, frame building constructed in the summer of 1903), and a general store owned by Victor Castelli and John B. Graziano (a small, single story brick structure constructed in 1903). Aside from the Globe Hotel, all of these enterprises were

TABLE 2  
WORKING POPULATION IN VALMEYER (1910)

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Barber	1	Miller	1
Bartender	3	Milliner	1
Beer Wagon Driver	1	Own Income	2
Blacksmith	2	Post Master	2
Bridge Laborer	1	Private Cook	1
Butcher	1	Prop. Club House	1
Doctor	1	Prop. Hotel/Saloon	1
Farm Laborer	10	Prop. Store	2
Farm Machinery		Prop. Saloon	2
Agent	1	Railroad	
Farmer	7	Brakeman	1
Flour Mill		Bridge Inspector	1
Bookkeeper	2	Civil Engineer	5
Cooper	3	Conductor	1
Engineer	1	Cook	1
Laborer	1	Fireman	2
Oiler	1	Foreman	1
Packer	1	Laborer	6
Watchman	1	Operator	2
Weigher	1	Saleslady	1
General Laborer	8	Salesman	2
Teamster	1	Sawmill Engineer	1
House Carpenter	3	Servant	5
Hardware Merchant	1	Teacher	1
Lumberman	1	Washerwoman	2
Mail Carrier	3	Wood Cutter	4
Merchant	1		

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located along Main Street, in Blocks 1 and 2, and formed the core of what was to become the commercial district of Valmeyer.<sup>57</sup> The frontier character of this early commercial district, consisting predominately of taverns and boarding houses, accommodated the numerous transient railroad workers passing through the region. As one source has noted, these businesses, with their beer gardens and dance halls, became the "centers of social activity."

Reflective of the railroad boom town, this commercial construction preceded and initially outpaced that of

residential construction in Valmeyer. The first residence erected within the town proper was owned by Victor Castelli.<sup>58</sup> This house was located in Lot 2, Block 1, next to the Castelli and Graziano store, and does not appear to have been completed until late 1904 or early 1905.<sup>59</sup> Soon after its completion, John Weist and Fred Weisenborn constructed houses on Lots 8 and 10 of Block 2, and Peter SENSEL erected a residence next to his tavern. As of 1905, however, these four structures were the only houses in Valmeyer, as compared to seven commercial properties (See Table 1).<sup>60</sup>

Nonetheless, the growth of Valmeyer's population within the first years of its existence --and the expectation of its further expansion-- was such that a one-story, frame school building was erected on the east side of Lake Street, in Lot 17, Survey 494, in 1905. Prior to the construction of this building, the closest educational facility to Valmeyer was a one-room school house located three-quarters of a mile north of town on Moredock Lake.<sup>61</sup>

In July 1906, Joseph F. Meyer, Frank Meyer, Victor Castelli, Adam Hoffman, John B. Graziano, and Herman Rump formed Valmeyer Milling Company.<sup>62</sup> In its articles of corporation, the milling company stated that it intended "to build and operate a flour mill with a capacity of 200 barrels in twenty-four hours" but would initially aim for a capacity of only 100 barrels when the mill was first in running order.<sup>63</sup> The site of the proposed mill complex was the right-of-way of the St. Louis Valley Railroad, adjacent to Lots 1 and 7 of Block 3, and suspected as the location of the Nanson Commission Company's frame elevator. When completed, the complex consisted of a mill building, grain elevator, and railroad switch.<sup>64</sup> The company suffered an initial setback in May 1906, when the mill caught fire and burned to the ground. The destroyed buildings, however, were quickly replaced by a substantial, three-story, mill constructed of brick (and completed by November 1907). The milling company became one of Valmeyer's primary employers and played a significant role in the early growth of the town (See MO-1996-2-AA).

Valmeyer also was home to several other industries during this early period. In 1904, Joseph F. Meyer and Adam Hoffman had established a lumber yard on Lots 3 and 4 of Block 1. In 1906, Meyer and Hoffman sold their interest in the lumber yard to Henry J. Niebruegge and Theodore M. Sondag, who later expanded into the hardware business.<sup>65</sup> Peter and Leo Moskop operated a soda bottling plant located

to the rear of Peter's house on Lake Street (See MO-1996-2-S). The Moskop brothers also were the local agents for the Western Brewery Association, which had erected an ice and cold storage building in town, on the railroad right-of-way. The Moskop's later sold their soda business to Charles Schweickhardt and their beer interests to Peter Sensel.<sup>66</sup>

In April 1908, Joseph Meyer platted a six block addition to Valmeyer. This was the first addition made to Valmeyer (and the first of three eventually made by Meyer), and it more than doubled the size of the existing town. Block 1 of the addition consisted of four lots located west of Lake Street and south of Main Street. Blocks 2 and 3 consisted of eleven and six lots, respectively. These blocks were situated on the north end of town and were separated by Maple Street. Block 4 and 5 had four and six lots, and were platted north of Main Street on the east side of the railroad. Block 6 contained twelve lots and was platted south of Main Street and east of Third Street.<sup>67</sup>

The size of Meyer's First Addition hints at the considerable growth Valmeyer was experiencing during this period. By late 1909, the town's population had risen to around 300, and on November 12 of that year a committee of residents filed a petition for Valmeyer to be incorporated as a village.<sup>68</sup> The issue was put to a vote among the eligible citizenry, which resulted in forty-three ballots being cast in favor of incorporation, three against, and one ballot being defective. A subsequent officer election placed some of the town's most prominent residents on the village board. Adam Hoffman, Jr. was named "president", while Joseph F. Meyer, Victor E. Castelli, William Welsch, Joseph C. Meyer, and George P. Hutter were selected as "trustees".<sup>69</sup>

Clearly, the five years between 1905 and 1910 was the period of most rapid growth for this community. It was during these years that Valmeyer outpaced the surrounding communities (such as Fults) and became the major economic and social center within the Monroe Bottom. Between 1905 and 1910, the number of property tax entries increased nearly 270% (from 13 to 48). During this same time period, Valmeyer's property tax assessment increased by over 565% (from \$2,005 to \$13,350). At no other time during the next 30 years was the community to experience such a dynamic growth (See Table 4).

TABLE 3  
 NATIVITY OF VALMEYER POPULATION  
 OVER 20 YEARS OF AGE (1910)

	#	%	#	%
New England			7	4.6
New York	6	4.0		
Vermont	1	0.7		
Mid-Atlantic			4	2.7
Maryland	3	2.0		
Pennsylvania	1	0.7		
Upland South			22	14.6
Kentucky	1	0.7		
Missouri	17	11.3		
Tennessee	2	1.3		
Arkansas	2	1.3		
South			3	2.0
Texas	2	1.3		
Louisiana	1	0.7		
Midwest			104	68.9
Illinois	102	67.6		
Indiana	2	1.3		
Foreign Born			11	7.3
Germany	8	5.3		
Ireland	2	1.3		
England	1	0.7		

By 1910, Valmeyer represented the largest community in the Monroe Bottom. One of the first detailed demographic profiles of the young railroad community of Valmeyer is presented in the 1910 Federal Population Census. According to the census, by the summer of 1910, there were approximately 267 individuals living within the community. This population consisted of 52 families living within 48 different "dwellings". Of this total, 68 (representing

25.5% of the population) were dependent children under the age of 17.

Unlike the nearby community of Fults (which had a fairly small, but stable agricultural population with a nearly equal mix of males and females), Valmeyer was a dynamic, quickly growing community that had an unequal mix of males to females. This demographic gender inequality, which is typical of frontier conditions, was most prominent in the 30 through 50-year old age bracket where the men outnumbered the women over two to one. In part, this was due to the large number of male railroad workers living within the community (See Table 2).

In contrast to the demographic makeup of the early, transient railroad community, the nativity of the adult population (20 years of age or greater) in Valmeyer at this date was predominately Illinois born (representing nearly 70% of the adult population). Individuals from the Upland South (Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee and Arkansas) accounted for 14.6% of the adult population. Smaller numbers of individuals originated from the New England (n=7; or 4.6% of the adult population), Mid-Atlantic (n=4; or 2.7% of the adult population), and Southern (n=3; or 2.0% of the adult population) states (See Table 3). The foreign-born adult population consisted of only 11 individuals (comprising only 7.3% of the adult population). Whereas the majority of the foreign-born were from Germany (n=8), individuals from Ireland (n=2) and England (n=1) were also present in the community.

Similarly, over 98% of the children in the community that were sixteen years of age or younger, had been born in Illinois, suggesting that many of the families living in Valmeyer at this date had been living in Illinois for many years prior to moving to this community. Of these dependent children, only one child (representing less than 2% of the children) had been born outside of the state and that child had been born in the neighboring state of Missouri.

The low number of German-born immigrants and the high number of Illinois-born individuals in this community in 1910 masks the character of the large German population in the Monroe Bottom by this date. By 1910, the majority of the German families were established, third generation families descended from immigrants that arrived in the region during the 1840s through 1860s. Although Illinois-born and third-generation, these families retained a strong German heritage, with services in St. Johns Church (St. Johannes

Kirche) being given in the German language.

The working population in the community included approximately 110 individuals (nearly 3 times that of nearby Fults) (See Table 4). The largest employer in the community of Valmeyer at this date was the local railroad company which employed 20 workmen whose occupations ranged from brakeman, bridge inspector, civil engineer, conductor, cook, fireman, foreman, laborer and operator. These 20 workmen comprised approximately 18.2% of the local workforce.

The Valmeyer Milling Company was the second largest employer at this date. The workforce included bookkeepers, coopers, engineers, laborers, oilers, packers, watchmen, and weighers. The 13 individuals employed by this company accounted for 11.8% of the local workforce.

Unskilled laborers also comprised a major percentage of the working population of Valmeyer (n=19; representing 17.3% of the working population). These individuals included general laborers (n=8), farm laborers (n=10), and bridge laborers (n=1). Service related industries also were common with barbers, bartenders, beer wagon drivers, hotel proprietors, saloon keepers, and washwomen being prominent in the community (n=11; or 10.0% of the working population).

Seven members of the working population were listed as farmers (ranging in age from 32 through 70 years old). The majority (n=5) 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 were living within the community proper. The construction trades were represented by three house carpenters, two blacksmiths, a sawmill engineer, four wood cutters, and a single lumberman. It is suspected that the wood cutters were employed by the sawmill operator.

Although the majority of the families in Valmeyer lived in single family dwellings, some individuals boarded in the local hotel/saloons (such as the Welsch or Sensel establishments). According to the 1910 Federal Population census, homeownership was relatively common in Valmeyer. Of the 52 households listed in the census, 30 (or 57.7%) were homeowners, while 22 (or 42.3%) were renters. This is nearly identical to the homeowner statistics from Fults.

The 1910 property tax records list 48 taxable properties in Valmeyer. The assessed values of these properties range

TABLE 4  
BUILDING ACTIVITY IN VALMEYER  
AS REPRESENTED BY 1903, 1905, 1910, 1920 AND 1930  
PROPERTY TAX RECORDS

	1903	1905	1910	1920	1930
Number of Entries	11	13	48	66	87
Percent Increase	--	18%	269%	38%	32%
Total Community Property Assessment	\$ 765	\$2,005	\$13,350	\$31,940	\$117,880
Percent Increase	--	162%	565%	134%	269%
Average Real Estate Assessment	\$ 70	\$155	\$282	\$484	\$1,355

from a low of \$15 to a high of \$3,500. Twenty-one of these properties (representing nearly 44% of the properties in the community) had an assessed value of \$100 or less and are suspected to represent either unimproved lots or low income housing. Fifteen properties were assessed between \$115 and \$265; four between \$300 to \$400; and six between \$500 to \$600. The \$600 assessment in 1910, which clearly was the highest assessment for a residential property, was for the Henrietta Laub House (See MO-1996-2-P). Only two other property tax assessments were higher than that assessed the Laub House. These included William Welsch's saloon and boarding house (assessed at \$1,335) and the landholdings of the Valmeyer Milling Company (assessed at \$3,500).

During the 1910s, the community of Valmeyer continued to expand. Between 1910 and 1920, the number of property tax



entries increased 38% and the community's property tax assessment increased by 134%. Similarly, the years immediately following the First World War were years of growth for the community. During this time; Valmeyer's corporate limits expanded eastward toward the bluff base and north along Lake Street. In November, 1921 alone, the town was to have three additions made to it. One of these was made by Theodore M. Sondag, who platted a one block, ten lot addition north of Main Street and east of Fourth Street. The same day Sondag filed his plat, Joseph Meyer filed one of his own for a two-block addition lying immediately north of Sondag's. Later that month, George F. Meyer platted a thirteen-lot addition, located south of Block 2 of the original town plat. In September 1923, Joseph Meyer made his third addition to Valmeyer, with the platting of two blocks immediately to the north of Block 3 of his first addition. The Valmeyer Lime and Stone Company made a four-block addition, located south of Miller Street, to Valmeyer in 1932.<sup>70</sup>

Aside from its physical growth, Valmeyer also experienced considerable improvements in its infrastructure during the post-World War I era. In June 1922, the village board granted William E. Schwing a franchise to wire the village streets for electric lights. Schwing subsequently set up an electrical plant and ran a series of light posts down Main Street. This system replaced the four Coleman gas street lamps that had been installed in 1916. In 1928, general electrical service in Valmeyer was established when the Illinois Power and Light Company built a line to the village.<sup>71</sup>

The streets in Valmeyer appear to have remained unsurfaced into the 1920s.<sup>72</sup> In 1929, however, the hard-surfaced portion of Route 156 was extended from Foster Pond, down through Dennis Hollow, to the eastern edge of Valmeyer. The highway was later extended through Joseph F. Meyer's Second Addition and Theodore Sondag's Addition to Main Street, which it followed west through town, reaching Harrisonville in 1931. Valmeyer's water system was constructed in 1942.<sup>73</sup>

Valmeyer's educational facilities were also improved during these years. In 1919, the frame school on Lake Street was sold at public auction and was replaced by a substantial brick building, with four classrooms. That same year, the Valmeyer Community High School District was organized. For the first two years of its existence, the high school was taught in the building on Lake Street. In 1921, however, it was moved to two portable, frame buildings that had been

erected on the west side of town. These buildings were used until 1938, when a two-story, brick building was built (See MO-1996-2-V).<sup>74</sup>

The post-World War I era witnessed an expansion of Valmeyer's business interests. This was particularly true of the quarry industry. In 1918, the Columbia Quarry Company reopened the old railroad quarry northeast of town.<sup>75</sup> That same year, J. L. Mitchell started the Valmeyer Lime and Stone and Company and opened a quarry on the south side of town. While Mitchell's operation was relatively short-lived and closed upon his death in 1922, Columbia's quarry at Valmeyer was to function for decades to come. The majority of the rock quarried at Valmeyer was taken out through mine shafts, rather than through open-face or pit mining. In 1930, the Gulf Oil Company established a pumping station on the south side of town. The station consisted of a large pumping facility and four cottages reserved for workmen.<sup>76</sup>

A sample of Valmeyer's business interests during the 1930s can be found in advertisement page of the high school newspaper. The May 1935 issue of the V.C.H.S. Booster offered advertisements for five food services, including Roland Roach's IGA store, Harry Meisenbach's City Meat Market, Lee Melliere's produce delivery, Groekler Bakery Products, and Fred Louer's Square Deal Meat Market. Schneider's Drug Store, operating out of the old Sensel Building, advertised "Drugs - Prescriptions - Ice Cream - Candy - Tobaccos - Ice Cold Drinks." Fenaia and Weisenborn were selling Allis-Chalmers farming equipment. Armin Hoffman was running the Monroe Oil Company and the mill was operating under the management of the Monroe Milling Company. The mill's advertisement offered flour, coal, and feed. Phillip Althoff was still running his dry goods and grocery business in the old Valmeyer Mercantile Company Building (See MO-1996-2-Y) and promoted his store as "A Good Place to Trade". A newcomer to the advertisement page was the Royal Theater, which had been erected earlier that year by Edwin Meyer.<sup>77</sup>

In addition to the businesses listed above, Valmeyer during the middle 1930s was also the home of Rohlfig's Barber Shop, the Valmeyer Furniture and Undertaking Company, and Hutter's Barber and Beauty Shop. Kriescher's Store occupied the old Castelli and Graziano store building. There were two car dealerships in town --one run by Henry A. Niebruegge and another by Joseph Moskop-- both of which had service garages. Mainstays in the community were the Niebruegge and

Sondag Hardware and Lumber Company and the Farmers State Bank.<sup>78</sup>

During the 1940s, Valmeyer was flooded by the Mississippi River three times. The community's location within the American Bottom had always presented the possibility of it being flooded, but the likelihood of such an event had been significantly reduced as result of the system of levees that were constructed along the Mississippi and such streams as Carr, Fountain, and Maeystown Creeks during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These levees stopped the springtime flooding that was endemic in the region and generally proved to be an effective barrier against all but the most disastrous of floods. Valmeyer was first flooded in 1903, shortly after its founding. It was then spared for forty years until 1943, when the levees protecting the Monroe Bottom failed, and flood waters swept all the way to the bluffs. The town suffered through another flood the following year, and yet again in 1947.<sup>79</sup> In spite of its misfortune of having gone through three floods in four years, Valmeyer retained core commercial establishments such as the Niebruegge and Sondag Hardware and Lumber Company, and the community continued to enjoy a population that witnessed a slow --but steady growth-- well into the latter part of the twentieth century. The repair and raising of the levee system following the 1947 flood protected Valmeyer and the rest of the Monroe Bottom during the Flood of 1973. This successful defense against what was then the highest flood on record undoubtedly raised hopes that the levee system could protect the Bottoms from any future flooding --a hope proven distastefully false during the Flood of 1993. In 1993, Valmeyer had a population of approximately 900.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

#### 1. Architectural Character:

Prior to the construction of the railroad line and the platting of the community of Valmeyer, the rural home (and center of a working farmstead) of the Meyer family was in the immediate project area. The Frederick Meyer farmhouse (and associated outbuildings) was located along Main Street somewhere near the site of the Schaefer Bakery (MO-1995-2-W). Unfortunately, this building was destroyed by fire in 1919. The one

photograph available of the house shows that it was a two-story, three-bay dwelling with a full-length front porch that was accessible from the second story.<sup>80</sup> The only pre-1900 building extant in Valmeyer by the early 1990s was the Elizabeth Meyer farmhouse (MO-1995-2-M) which was constructed for Frederick Meyer's widow in ca. 1885. This house, as originally constructed, was a one-and-one-half story, double pile, frame dwelling common among the German, agrarian families within the greater Monroe County and St. Clair County region. Later alterations resulted in the raising of this dwelling to a full two stories in height.

By 1910, Valmeyer had become the largest village within the Monroe Bottom. The buildings documented in this community represent traditional housing and commercial structures associated with a small, agrarian community.

The first buildings constructed in this frontier railroad community were commercial buildings --predominately taverns and boarding houses. The Globe Hotel, which was one of the earlier boarding houses constructed in the community, was a two-and-one-half-story, double-pile frame building (See Historic Photograph, Figure 22). Although constructed somewhat later (ca. 1908), the Moskop Boarding House (MO-1996-2-L) is a similar two-story, double-pile structure. Both of these boarding houses were double-pile structures constructed by individuals of German heritage and are reminiscent of the rural housing constructed by German families elsewhere in the Monroe Bottoms. The floor plan of the Moskop Boarding House was set up with four main floor rooms arranged around a central stairhall. Two rooms were dedicated to the private family use while two were devoted to the public use (dining and social activities). Additionally, a kitchen was located in the rear service wing of the building. The upstairs, arranged into four large rooms, was set aside for the sleeping quarters of the guests.

The first store in Valmeyer was constructed by Victor Castelli and John Graziano. This distinctive, single-story structure, operated as a general mercantile store, was constructed of brick and contrasted dramatically to the many frame buildings in the early community. Later mercantile buildings along Main Street, such as the Valmeyer Mercantile Company Building (MO-1996-2-Y), were two stories in height with

bracketed parapet fronts. The lower floor of this building was dedicated to retail space and the upper floor was used as a boarding house.

Several of the local saloons (such as the Welsch, Sensel, and Bilzing Saloons) occupied buildings similar in form to that of the Valmeyer Mercantile Company Building (a large, two story, rectangular frame building with parapet front). Whereas the lower story housed the saloon, the second story was used either as a boarding house (partitioned into small rooms), or as a large meeting and/or dance hall (similar to that at the Miller Saloon at nearby Harrisonville; See MO-1996-3-F).

Smaller, single-story, gable front, commercial buildings were also constructed in the early community. One of the earlier commercial structures in the community was the original portion of the Lee/Hutter House (MO-1996-2-0). This small, two-room, gable-front structure housed Dr. Lee's medical office as well as the post-office. Later additions onto the front of this building gave this structure the appearance of a typical dwelling. After construction of the new front addition, the building functioned as both commercial and dwelling space. Similarly, the Schaefer Bakery (MO-1996-2-W) represents an early, single story, gable front commercial structure with a parapet false front.

The dwellings constructed in early Valmeyer, which are typical of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century rural settlement of this region, 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 Valmeyer Milling Company, by many of the local farmers, as well as the local merchants and building contractors.

The less established, often transient laborer (often single) generally boarded with a local family or within one of the many boarding houses in the community. Another alternative for the low income family, was single family-rental housing. The lowest income housing present in the early community of Valmeyer (and generally representing rental property) were small, one-and-a-half-story, frame dwellings with little to no

ornamentation, and simple gable roofs. These single-pile structures (often referred to as I-cottages) were oriented with their long axis parallel to the street, and had a simple, two-room, rectangular plan that lacked a rear service wing. The Daunn House (MO-1996-2-E) represents a rental dwelling constructed for Henry Daunn ca. 1906. Containing less than 325 square feet on the ground floor, the house contained a multi-purpose kitchen, dining room, and parlor as well as a bedroom. Distinctive features of this two-room house is the vertical board and batten siding, lack of chimney, ladder access to the overhead loft, pier foundations, interior plank (beadboard) partition wall, and lack of cellar space.

Not long after the original construction of the Daunn House (MO-1996-2-E), a rear service (or kitchen) wing --complete with large work porch-- was constructed onto the dwelling. This wing added nearly 185 square feet to the dwelling (not counting the work porch) bringing the total living space to 510 square feet. With the upstairs loft, the Daunn House had approximately 835 square feet of living space. This addition, which increased the size of the ground floor by nearly 57%, gave the building a distinctive L-shaped plan, separated the formal public space (parlor) from the kitchen, added an enclosed stairway to the upstairs loft, and brought the house into line with the minimal housing requirements for the period.

The Weisenborn House (MO-1996-2-D), also constructed ca. 1906, represents a similar, frame dwelling occupied by a low income family. Associated with this dwelling was a small, frame outbuilding that functioned as a cellar, summer kitchen and wash house. Such outbuildings would have been common with many of the houses in early Valmeyer.

One step above the Daunn and Weisenborn Houses, in respect to housing quality in early Valmeyer, is the Niemann House (MO-1996-2-C), which was constructed for Henry Niemann as a rental property ca. 1910. This one-and-a-half-story, frame dwelling has a 3-room, L-shaped plan complete with a rear work porch. Although similar in plan, the Niemann House is substantially larger than the Daunn House, containing 690 square feet of living space on the ground floor (which is slightly over 35% larger than the Daunn House). With the second story, the Niemann House

contains 1,380 square feet of living space. The upstairs contained a large common room (which contained the stairway) and two bedrooms. Distinctive characteristics of this house include its double front doors, frame stud interior walls, brick chimneys, perimeter foundations, and enclosed stairway (L-shaped with landing). Although this house lacked a cellar beneath the house proper, a well-built summer kitchen complete with cellar, (which was an integral part of most working households) may have once been present on this house lot. By the early twentieth century, this was a fairly standardized plan and generally represented the minimal house for a working class family. The Niemann House is very comparable to the North Hursey House which is located in nearby Fults (See MO-1996-1-C).

The Paul Sensel House (MO-1996-2-R) represents a two-story equivalent of the early Daunn House. Constructed and occupied by a young carpenter, this house --which lacked a rear service wing-- had a two-room plan which contained approximately 470 square feet per floor. With the two upstairs sleeping rooms, the house contained approximately 940 square feet of living space. Distinctive characteristics of this house include its double front doors, central chimney, enclosed stairway, and small cellar.

Multiple family housing in small communities such as Valmeyer were few in number. Only one duplex was noted within this early community. The Mueller Duplex (MO-1996-2-Q) was constructed as rental property for Peter Mueller (a non-local resident) in ca. 1908. Resembling a large frame, single family dwelling, the structure was divided into two separate units. Although the duplex had two front doors (one per unit), this was not uncommon in the community where many of the single family houses had double front doors.<sup>81</sup> Each unit in the duplex consisted of two rooms per floor (each containing approximately 400 square feet per floor). Distinctive characteristics of each unit includes the enclosed stairway, side chimney and shared cellar. With a total of 800 square feet of living space and lacking a rear service wing, each unit was similar in character to the single family Paul Sensel House (MO-1996-2-R) which was discussed earlier.

The middle class housing of the more successful, traditional white-collar workers and tradesmen of

Valmeyer are best represented by the large, two-story, vernacular houses typical of the Charles and Frank Pflasterer Houses (MO-1996-2-N and MO-1996-2-T, respectively). Whereas Charles was an engineer employed at the Valmeyer Milling Company (later turned automobile mechanic), his brother Frank was a house carpenter. It is interesting to speculate that both of these houses may have been constructed by Frank Pflasterer --the Charles Pflasterer House in ca. 1906 and the Frank Pflasterer in ca. 1914-15.

Both the Charles and Frank Pflasterer Houses have a three-room plan with a T-shaped footprint and hip roof. The main block of the house, which fronts the street, contains two side by side rooms that probably functioned as a formal public room (parlor) and downstairs bedroom. Both rooms have a front entrance door that leads to the front porch. A distinctive feature of these houses is the presence of the open stairway within the parlor. The rear service wing (which contains only one room) functioned as the kitchen. The second story of these houses contained two rooms which functioned as bedrooms, work rooms, as well as storage space. Associated with both houses are large cellars located beneath the house proper.

Although similar in plan, these two houses vary considerably in size. The Frank Pflasterer House has a ground story plan approximately 18.6% larger than the Charles Pflasterer House. Not counting the cellar space nor work porches, the Charles Pflasterer House contains approximately 700 square feet on the ground floor and 535 square feet on the second floor (or 1,235 square feet total), while the Frank Pflasterer House contains approximately 815 square feet on the ground floor and 590 square feet on the second floor (or 1,405 square feet total). Besides being larger in size, the Frank Pflasterer House also had a large bay window in the parlor, stud frame partition walls on the second floor (in contrast to beadboard walls), a paneled staircase that fronted the kitchen (as opposed to a beadboard staircase which fronted the main entrance), more work porch space, and a much larger cellar --all characteristics of a more expensive building than the Charles Pflasterer House. It is interesting to speculate that these two houses represent a similar standard of middle class living within this community separated by approximately 9 years --the Charles Pflasterer House being constructed ca. 1906 and the



Frank Pflasterer House ca. 1915.

In their basic form, the main body of these frame houses (which are two rooms long, one room deep, and two stories tall) 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."<sup>82</sup> 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.<sup>83</sup>

These houses are similar to 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) in nearby Fults. In Fults, these houses represent the most substantial housing in the community. This was not the case in Valmeyer, where several more substantial and/or ornate houses were present and occupied by the wealthiest residents of the community.

On the upper end of the economic spectrum were the more established white collar workers of Valmeyer. 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 these families in Valmeyer during the early years of the community is represented by two classes of architecture --the large, two-story, vernacular frame house, and the more fashionable, non-traditional houses inspired by high style or popular culture elements.

The traditional-upper class housing in Valmeyer is best represented by the Laub House (MO-1996-2-P) which was constructed for the widow Henrietta Laub in 1909. In 1910, the Laub House was given an assessed value of

\$600, which is the highest assessment given to any domestic property in Valmeyer that year and is five times that of the contemporary Daunn House (MO-1996-2-E). Unlike the previously described single-pile structures, the Laub House is a large, two-story, double-pile structure with each floor containing four rooms arranged around a central stair-hall. The ground floor of the Laub House contains approximately 1,155 square feet while the upstairs contains approximately 1,130 square feet (with a total of 2,285 square feet of living space). Distinctive characteristics of the house include the central hallway (with open, paneled stairway), bay window, pocket doors leading into the parlor, four bedrooms, dedicated dining room, and large cellar.

In contrast, several non-traditional house forms were constructed in the Valmeyer community during these early years. Clearly the largest of these houses was the two-story, frame Moskop House (MO-1996-2-S). With simple Queen Anne detail (assymmetrical massing, large wraparound porch, cottage windows), this house was constructed in 1909 for a self-employed mechanic who owned and operated a steam threshing business. The downstairs of the Moskop House (which contains approximately 1,280 square feet of living space) had two parlors, a dining room, a kitchen and both a front and rear stairhall. The upstairs, containing approximately 1,200 square feet of living space, has six rooms (many with closets) arranged around a central hallway. These rooms functioned as bedrooms for both the family as well as the servants. With over 2,480 square feet of living space, this was one of the largest houses in the Valmeyer community. Distinctive characteristics of this house include the multiple bay windows, open staircase (with plastered stair wall), multiple sliding pocket doors, upstairs sleeping porch, and large cellar. Although the inspiration for this house plan is unknown, it is very similar to a house illustrated in the 1916 issue of Montgomery Ward and Company's Book of Homes.

Other "high style" houses in Valmeyer include the Hoffman (MO-1996-2-F; constructed ca. 1905), Wallace (MO-1996-2-J; constructed ca. 1911), and Miller (Mo-1996-2-I; constructed ca. 1911) Houses. Both the Hoffman and Wallace Houses are relatively small, one-and-a-half-story, brick houses with simple Queen Anne details. The Hoffman House has decorative

segmental arched lintels, a bay window, and a decorative wall dormer with wood shingle details. Its small, four-room, double pile plan is reminiscent of the non-Anglo, Germanic housing that is common within the rural area surrounding Valmeyer. As such, this house appears to represent a Germanic house form that has received relatively heavy ornamentation for this early community (See discussion of Germanic house forms present in Fults, MO-1996-1).

In contrast, the Wallace House (MO-1996-2-J) represents a non-traditional, one-and-a-half-story, brick dwelling with simple Queen Anne details (asymmetrical floor and roof plan, segmental arched lintels, shingle decorated wall dormers) that was probably inspired from a published pattern book. This house, which was constructed for a local banker, had ornate stenciled borders (incorporating both Art Deco, Art Nouveau, and Colonial Revival elements into their design) in the stairhall as well as each side parlor.

The Miller House (MO-1996-2-I) is a one-and-one-half-story dwelling with pyramidal roof that was constructed in 1911 using a combination of poured concrete and concrete block technology. Containing approximately 1,630 square feet on the ground floor and an additional 1,075 square feet on the second floor (for a total of approximately 2,700 square feet), this high style house was constructed for Dr. John Miller, the local physician, and served as both his dwelling and medical office.

During the early twentieth century, the introduction of a the new "modern" building material concrete revolutionized the building industry. The construction of the Hennepin Canal in northcentral Illinois between 1890 and 1907 "moved the nation into the modern concrete era."<sup>84</sup> The commercial and industrial use of concrete boomed during the early years of the century --particularly in such urban areas as Chicago and nearby St. Louis. Although initially adapted to industrial and transportation related projects by the turn-of-the-century, the use of concrete in house construction was not as quickly accepted by contractors particularly in such small rural communities as Valmeyer.

One of the earliest uses of poured concrete in Valmeyer is in the Hoffman House (MO-1996-2-F), which was

constructed sometime prior to 1906 (ca. 1905-06). By ca. 1908-09, poured concrete had made its appearance in Valmeyer in force and saw use in the construction of the Paul Sensel House (MO-1996-2-R), the Laub House (MO-1996-2-P), and the Mueller Duplex (Mo-1996-2-Q). During these years, concrete was relegated predominately for the use of foundation (and potentially cistern) construction. In 1911, the builders of the Miller House (MO-1996-2-I) combined the use of molded concrete block in conjunction with a raised concrete foundation wall, and the bungalow house form, to produce a unique, non-traditional house for this conservative, rural community.

The inspiration for both this method of construction (concrete block), as well as house form (Bungalow), probably originated from one of several different published sources. By ca. 1905-1906, several popular books had been published that stressed concrete construction (such as the Atlas Portland Cement Company's Concrete Construction About the Home And On The Farm, 1905; and Hodgson's Mortars, Plasters, Stuccos, Artificial Marbles, Concretes, Portland Cements and Compositions, 1906). Between the years 1902 and 1908, the mail order firm of Sears, Roebuck and Company began marketing a variety of hollow concrete building block machines (including their successful "Wizard") as well as publishing a special concrete building block catalog.<sup>85</sup> By 1909, the Chicago based Radford Architectural Company had published the book Cement Houses and How to Build Them which illustrated 87 "Cement Plaster and Concrete Block Houses" ranging in price from \$750 to \$3,500. According to the Radford Architectural Company, all plans were drawn by licensed architects.

Although the bungalow house form was being popularized by 1906 (See Hodgson's Practical Bungalows and Cottages For Town and Country, 1906), this house form was slow to be adopted by the local agrarian population of Valmeyer. It was nearly a decade later (late 1910s and early 1920s) before the bungalow house form became popular in this community. By the late 1920s and early 1930s, the traditional house forms typical of the early community were quickly giving way to the more popular, and modernized, Bungalow house forms. The earliest bungalow house documented by this research was the Ritzel House (constructed ca. 1922; MO-1996-2-B). The Elmer Meyer House (constructed ca. 1928; MO-1996-2-A)

and the Niebrugge House (constructed ca. 1937; MO-1996-2-G) are two other bungalow house forms documented by this research. A distinctive characteristic of all three of these bungalow houses is the early garages associated with the original structure --indicative of the presence and importance of the automobile to the early twentieth century inhabitants of the community.

Whether lower class or upper class, outbuildings were a necessary addition to the traditional, early twentieth century household. Summer kitchens were exterior work spaces that complimented the traditional house kitchen and generally present on most house lots. 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 Weisenborn (MO-1996-2-D) and Laub (MO-1996-2-P) Houses. Additionally, a multi-purpose building that may have functioned as a carriage house, wood shed and summer kitchen was documented at the Frank Pflasterer House (MO-1996-2-T).

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 wall and ceiling finishes of the lower stories of these buildings had been heavily damaged by flood waters, and many of the houses had been stripped of their doors, trim, and hardware. In several cases, associated porches and outbuildings had been swept away by the flood. 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 Daunn House (MO-1996-2-E), which, as originally constructed, measured only 12'-3"x24'-9". In contrast, the largest dwellings documented in Valmeyer were the Moskop House (MO-1996-2-S), Laub House (MO-1996-2-P), and the Miller House (MO-1996-2-I). The Miller House measured approximately 39'6"x45'8". For a more detailed

discussion of the variation in building size, see II. A. 1 (Architectural Character).

2. Foundations:

The earliest of buildings in Valmeyer were constructed with quarried stone foundation walls of variable thickness (For example, see the Lee/Hutter House, MO-1996-2-O and the Charles Pflasterer House, MO-1996-2-N). The stone used in these construction projects originated from quarries located within the adjacent bluff line.

Unlike more rural communities such as Fults (where the use of stone persisted for many years to come), the majority of the extant houses in Valmeyer were constructed with the use of poured concrete foundation walls. The use of poured concrete in foundation construction not only began at a relatively early date in Valmeyer, but also appears to have been more readily accepted there than in Fults. The earliest documented house with poured concrete foundations in Valmeyer appears to be the Hoffman House (MO-1996-2-F), which was constructed ca. 1905. Another possible candidate for the early use of poured concrete is the Weisenborn House and its associated summer kitchen (MO-1996-2-D). Although the house was constructed ca. 1906 it is doubtful that the perimeter foundations on this house were original. Similarly, it is questionable as to whether the summer kitchen dates to this early date.

A more established date for the use of concrete foundations in Valmeyer date to ca. 1908 with the construction of the Mueller Duplex (MO-1996-2-Q) and 1910 with the construction of the John Sensel House (MO-1996-2-K). By 1911, poured concrete foundations were the norm (See the Wallace House, MO-1996-2-J; the Niemann House, MO-1996-2-C). That same year (1911) witnessed the first documented use of hollow concrete building blocks in conjunction with the use of poured concrete foundation walls in the Miller House (MO-1996-2-I). In ca. 1915, the large concrete elevator (MO-1996-2-AA) was constructed for the Salt Lick Milling Company. After that date, poured concrete seems to have become a common building material.

Most houses in Valmeyer have poured concrete foundations approximately 8" to 9" in thickness. In contrast, some of the more substantial houses in the

community (such as the Moskop House) have exceptionally wide (1'-2") foundation walls.

3. Walls:

Although most of the buildings in Valmeyer appear to have been covered with horizontal weatherboard, at least one of the early dwellings (the Lee/Hutter House; MO-1996-2-0) 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 occasional brick and poured concrete block building, the vast majority of the domestic and commercial buildings in Valmeyer were constructed using balloon-frame technology. The balloon-frame houses of Valmeyer lack the distinctive knee bracing which was incorporated into the framing of most of the houses of nearby Fults. Extending from the sill plate to high on the corner post, this form of knee brace is diagnostic of the local German carpenters and was documented only on the Elizabeth Meyer House (MO-1996-2-M, constructed ca. 1885).

The earliest housing in Valmeyer documented by this research (the Elizabeth Meyer House, MO-1996-2-M) was constructed using a wide range of non-local stock (predominately white pine sills, joists, studs, and rafters). By the early 1900s, the buildings in Valmeyer were constructed with non-local materials (particularly yellow pine and/or cypress lumber transported from southern source areas along the St. Louis Valley rail line).

The vast majority of the lumber used in the construction of the buildings in Valmeyer consists of southern yellow pine and/or cypress. Initially surfaced on only two sides, by the late 1920s, the lumber was surfaced on four sides --as present in the ca. 1928 Schaefer Bakery Building (MO-1996-2-W).

A few of the more affluent families constructed houses of brick (such as the Hoffman House, MO-1996-2-F, and the Wallace House, MO-1996-2-J) or molded concrete block (Miller House, MO-1996-2-I). Similarly, although the vast majority of the commercial buildings were

constructed of balloon-frame construction, some of the more substantial commercial and institutional buildings also were constructed of brick (such as the Castelli and Graziano store, the early Farmers Bank Building, MO-1996-2-Z, and St. Johns Church, MO-1996-2-U). Additionally, brick was used in the construction of a portion of the Schaefer Bakery (MO-1996-2-W) for its fire retardant characteristics.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

a. Floor Plan Description:

Several different house forms were recognized in the Valmeyer community. The distinctive characteristics of these house forms (including variations in their floor plans) is discussed in II. A. 1.

b. Basement/Cellar Description:

Although a necessary component of traditional houses (for cold storage of foods), cellars were not present under all the early houses of Valmeyer. The housing associated with the working class families of Valmeyer (such as the Daunn House, MO-1996-2-E, and Weisenborn House, MO-1996-2-D), small cellars located beneath an exterior summer kitchen was the norm. In contrast, the more substantial houses of the community had small cellars generally located beneath the kitchen service wing (for example, see the Charles Pflasterer House, MO-1996-2-N). In contrast, the housing associated with the more affluent families often had large cellars beneath a major portion of the house (See, for example, the Moskop House, MO-1996-2-S). A distinctive characteristic of the modern bungalow house form was the presence of a full basement --generally necessary to accomodate the central heating systems that became common with these house forms.

An interesting aspect of a couple of the cellars in Valmeyer are the small wall niches that have been constructed into the cellar walls. Such niches are present in the Elizabeth Meyer House (MO-1996-2-M) as well as the Paul Sensel House



(MO-1996-2-R). Commonly associated with German farm families, such wall niches represent storage compartments built into the foundation wall. Traditionally, some of the niches had wooden doors and probably functioned as a cold storage compartment. Other, similarly-sized niches never had doors and may have functioned as storage compartments for non-perishable items (such as canned goods).<sup>86</sup>

2. Stairways:

Housing associated with the lowest income families in Valmeyer, when originally constructed, did not have any stairways present. Although these houses had usable loft space, access to the second story loft was gained by a ladder placed in a scuttle located in the ceiling (See the Daunn House, MO-1996-2-E, as originally constructed). This method of accessing the second story was not very acceptable, even to the lowest economic classes. Shortly after construction of the original house, a kitchen wing was added onto the rear of this simple dwelling. This new construction incorporated an enclosed stairway (constructed with beadboard partition walls) that was typical of the working class houses of Valmeyer. These stairways generally were accessible from the working kitchens.

More affluent households have open stairways (complete with newel posts and spindles). Although having open 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 the traditional housing of Valmeyer. In Valmeyer, early I-houses such as the Charles and Frank Pflasterer Houses (MO-1996-2-N and MO-1006-2-T, respectively) had their straight-shot stairways incorporated into their parlor. The only structure with a central hallway documented in Valmeyer is the double-pile, Mueller Duplex (MO-1996-2-Q).

The traditional, double-pile Laub House (MO-1996-2-P), the large Queen Anne, Moskop House (MO-1996-2-S), and the more diminutive, brick Queen Anne, Wallace House (MO-1996-2-J), all have large, formal entrance halls associated with their stairways. In line with the upper class status of the households living in these dwellings, the open stairway is associated with a large, wide hallway. Although some of the open

stairways associated with the housing of the more affluent households have lower partition walls constructed with beadboard, the more substantial housing of the community have paneled, lower partition walls. Several examples of open stairways with paneled lower partition walls include the Laub House (MO-1996-2-P) and the Frank Pflasterer House (MO-1996-2-T). The Moskop House (MO-1996-2-S) has a plastered lower partition wall associated with its stairway.

3. Wall and Ceiling Finishes:

By the early twentieth century, plastered wall and ceiling surfaces were common throughout Illinois. Although lath and plaster finishes were common in Valmeyer, particularly with the upper class housing, the use of molded beadboard on the ceilings and enclosing the stairways was common. Whether due to the bottomland location (which had the potential to flood) or simple economic availability (beadboard vs. labor of the plasterer), many of the less substantial houses in Valmeyer were constructed without plastered walls and ceilings. At the Paul Sensel House (MO-1996-2-R), a moderately-sized two-story structure constructed ca. 1908 for use by a local carpenter, the interior wall surfaces were sheathed with narrow tongue and groove pine boards. In turn, this surface was covered with wallpaper (potentially applied over muslin). The overhead ceilings in this dwelling were covered with narrow, beadboard. Similarly, many houses simply applied the molded beadboard to all the wall and ceiling surfaces. This practice may have been an adaptation to the low lying-setting --if flooded, the wood surfaces were easier to clean, cheaper to repair, and more stable than plaster surfaces.

With the construction of the new Bungalow house forms, many new materials were introduced into the community. One such material was "Beaver Board", an early gypsum board substitute for lath and plaster surfaces which was patented in 1916. The Weidner House (MO-199602-H), constructed ca. 1921-22, incorporated Beaver Board wall panels into the original construction.

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.

In Valmeyer, most interior trim is relatively plain, especially with the lower class housing. Some have molded trim, particularly with the upper class housing. Like the majority of the lumber used throughout this period, the trim is predominately yellow pine (or cypress). It is interesting to note the use of simple beaded trim in the Charles Pflasterer House (MO-1996-2-N). This white pine trim either represents materials salvaged from an older structure, or old stock floating around the local lumber yard.

5. Hardware:

The houses in Valmeyer used a wide range of rim and mortise locks purchased from the local hardware dealer. Many of these locks were similar to the standard hardware marketed by such companies as Sears, Roebuck and Company.

6. Mechanical Equipment:

a. Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation:

During the early years of settlement, the majority of houses in Valmeyer were heated with combination coal and wood burning stoves. During the first decades of the community, even the highest status households heated with combination coal and wood-burning stoves, as witnessed by the 1911 probate inventory of the Laub House (MO-1996-2-P) which listed "3 heating stoves" (valued at \$18.00) within the household inventory.

With the introduction of the modern bungalow house form, central heating systems (such as coal-burning, gravity-fed furnaces) became common, replacing the multiple heating stoves located throughout the house. The presence of a single, original chimney in the Miller House (MO-1996-2-I) suggests that the house may have been heated with a central furnace from the date of its construction (ca. 1911), as opposed to the combination coal and/or wood-burning stoves

initially used in the majority of the early homes in Valmeyer. If so, the original furnace may have been a gravity-fed, hot air furnace fueled by coal. The Miller House also is the only structure in this community that had a fireplace. This fireplace, which not be an original feature of this dwelling, was an ornamental feature of the parlor and did not function as a heating source.

Some of the more substantial housing of the upper class residents in the community were converted to steam or hot water heat by installing a boiler and radiator system in their previously constructed dwellings. Such was what the Laub and Moskop families did, probably during the late 1910s or 1920s (See MO-1996-2-P and MO-1996-2-S).

b. Lighting:

Initially, all the houses documented by this research were illuminated with the use of kerosene lamps. Although few in number, and apparently located within the kitchen, the residents of the Laub House (MO-1996-2-P) in 1911 had "4 lamps" valued at only \$0.75. The low number of lamps, and their association with the kitchen, raises the question of another form of lighting during these years. No evidence for gas lighting was observed. As such, the possibility exists that many of the upper class families of Valmeyer, such as the Laubs, had installed private generators with electric lighting.

Public accessible electricity first began to be introduced into Valmeyer in the early 1920s. In June 1922, William E. Schwing petitioned the Village for a franchise to construct a power plant and wire the a section of Main Street, west of the railroad tracts, for electrical lighting. By the end of the summer, Schwing apparently had this plant constructed, as the Village paid him \$5.00 for electricity used during the month of July. Sometime later, Herman Linker received a franchise to run electrical wires east of the tracks. It was not until 1928 that the community of Valmeyer was to receive community-wide electrical service. It was during that year that the Illinois Power and Light Company constructed a power line into the Village. Over the next few years, many of the

residents of Valmeyer wired their houses for electrical lighting.<sup>87</sup>

Electricity did not come to many of the smaller, surrounding, rural communities such as Fults until the late 1930s. The local Rural Electrification Authority Co-op was organized in 1938 and began stringing lines to Fults in 1938 and 1939. As one informant noted, when discussing the introduction of electricity to nearby Fults, "I doubt if every [one] plugged in immediately, but I suspect that everyone was using electricity by the start of World War II."<sup>88</sup>

c. Plumbing:

During the initial years of settlement, all the residents of Valmeyer were supplied with water from private wells and/or cisterns. Similarly, the early residents of Valmeyer, like their rural neighbors, used outdoor toilets (privies) throughout the early twentieth century.

For the majority of the Valmeyer community, indoor running water and toilets were not common fixtures of the local housing until well after World War II. In 1942, the Village of Valmeyer, with the assistance of the Federal government, constructed a public water distribution system. Prior to this time, private pumps (either electrical or gasoline powered) would have been necessary to have indoor plumbing. Although private gasoline powered generators were an option, the introduction of electricity to the community in 1928 would have made electric pumps practical for a wide range of families (particularly the upper class). As such, it was ca. 1928-32 that many bathrooms were probably installed in the housing of the upper class in Valmeyer.

Nonetheless, it often was many years before running water was installed into a house. As one informant noted when discussing nearby Fults, "Indoor plumbing began to be installed in the fifties. By the late sixties, nearly everyone had plumbing installed. 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."<sup>89</sup>

Physical evidence for the introduction of water in Valmeyer housing 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, often converting a pantry or upstairs bedroom into a bathroom. In contrast, finding room to place the bathroom into the smaller housing of the community often took a little bit more ingenuity. In such cases, exterior work porches were often enclosed to create space for a bathroom.

The date of the downstairs bathroom in the Miller House (MO-1996-2-I) is problematic. Although it may have been constructed as a original fixture of the house, it seems more likely to suspect that this bathroom was not added until sometime after 1928 (and the introduction of electricity). Prior to that date, the Miller House, like all the others in the community, was supplied with water from wells and cisterns located adjacent to the house. Considering the status of the local doctor, this house may have been supplied with a gasoline-powered, electrical generator and pump, in which case the bathroom may have been original to the house.

The bathroom in the Laub House (MO-1996-2-P) appears to be one of the earlier in the community, having been installed in the house during the 1920s. Similarly, if constructed prior to 1928 and the introduction of electricity to the community, it would imply that the house was outfitted with a gasoline-powered electric generator.

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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. 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 Valmeyer (and the buildings documented here) is limited, their knowledge of the community is invaluable.

Similarly, the archaeological integrity of the subsurface resources in Valmeyer were not assessed. Three pre-Valmeyer components are suspected of being located in the immediate project area. Noted within disturbed backdirt piles within the yard of the Moskop House (MO-1996-2-S), were numerous prehistoric lithics as well as large pottery sherds. It is suspected that this material represents a buried prehistoric Late Woodland component. Additionally, documentation strongly points to the greater Valmeyer area as being the location of Edgar's early salt works. The remains of this late eighteenth/early nineteenth century occupation would be extremely interesting and contribute significantly to our understanding of this early period. Similarly, the integrity of the early Meyer Farmstead (established ca. 1857 and destroyed by fire in 1919; suspected as being located somewhere in close proximity to the Schaefer Bakery Building, MO-1996-2-W) was not assessed. Other structures (such as the Globe Tavern) were represented only by subsurface resources, having been demolished long before the Flood of 1993.

In Valmeyer, archaeological investigations have the potential to yield a wide range of information regarding these structures and activity that were once associated with them. Additionally, subsurface resources (especially filled trash pits, privies, and adjacent middens) associated with the structures documented by this research have the potential to contribute dramatically to our understanding of early twentieth century lifeways in small agricultural communities such as Valmeyer. 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 Valmeyer would be fruitful.

Another source of information that was not pursued are

the records of the P.W.A. housed at the National Archives, Washington, D.C. Similar research for the Grafton Waterworks Building, another P.W.A. project, resulted in uncovering a wide range of correspondence, contracts, and building specifications pertaining to the construction of this building. Similar information should be available for the Valmeyer High School as well as the Valmeyer City Hall/Waterworks Building.

#### 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 Valmeyer 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

Table 5

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)	0	1
Totals	832	69

Architectural Survey of Flood Damaged Valmeyer, Monroe County, Illinois" which was prepared by Floyd Mansberger, Christopher Stratton and Patrick Steele, Sr.

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 several of these buildings had sufficient integrity to be determined eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. After a long wait, the participants in the Federal buyout programs were finally identified, and mitigation work was conducted in the winter of 1994-1995.

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 Valmeyer 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 photo 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, 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 coordinated the field work, assisted with the written outline production and authored portions of the cover document. All individuals were working under the direct supervision of Mr. Floyd Mansberger, principal investigator, Fever River Research, P.O. Box 5234, Springfield, Illinois, 62705.

2. Photographer:

The majority of the field photographs of Valmeyer were taken by Mr. Patrick Steele during the course of the field documentation. Mr. Steele is a preservation specialist then living in rural Louisiana, Missouri and working for Fever River



Research. Mr. Christopher Stratton also took some photographs, particularly of the Valmeyer Community High School. All photographs were processed by the Photographic Services Corporation, Springfield, Illinois.

3. Delineator:

The vast majority of the building plans from Valmeyer were drawn by Mr. Patrick Steele. However, some of the Valmyer building plans were prepared by Messrs. Christopher Stratton and Floyd Mansberger using Mr. Steele's field notes. Mr. Stratton is a research assistant with Fever River Research, Springfield, Illinois. These drawings were then digitized, using Design-CAD software, by one of several individuals. CAD operators included Ms. Cynthia Phillippe, Mr. Gabriel Haggmann, Mr. Vlad Gudzinko, Mr. Tim Townsend, 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.

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.<sup>90</sup>

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) After completion of this fieldwork, all buildings were demolished.
- (2) Waterloo Times December 3, 1959.
- (3) Walter Lowrie and Walter S. Franklin, editors, American State Papers, Volume II, (Washington, D.C.: Gales and Seaton, 1834), 191.
- (4) J.L. McDonough and Company. Combined History of Randolph, Monroe and Perry Counties, Illinois. (Philadelphia, 1883), 383.
- (5) Ibid.
- (6) 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).
- (7) Clarence Walworth Alvord. "The Illinois Country", The Centennial History of Illinois, Volume I. Illinois Centennial Commission, Springfield, 1920.
- (8) This village was attacked in 1753 by a raiding party composed of Fox, Sauk, and Sioux.
- (9) Alvord, 1920, 202.
- (10) McDonough, 1883, 383.
- (11) 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).
- (12) 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.
- (13) 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).

- (14) 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.
- (15) 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).
- (16) 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."
- (17) 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).
- (18) 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).
- (19) 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.
- (20) By the turn of the century (1800), this dramatic stretch of bluffs were simply referred to as "the Rock".
- (21) 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.
- (22) 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 hornes 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, Americian 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.

- (23) McDonough, 1883, 413-414.
- (24) Ibid.
- (25) Ibid.
- (26) Ibid, 414.
- (27) Ibid.
- (28) Ibid, 397.
- (29) Ibid, 50, 319, 449.
- (30) Record of Articles of Corporation. County Clerk's Office, Waterloo, Illinois, A:13.
- (31) Railroad and Warehouse Commission of Illinois. Annual Report of the St. Louis Valley Railroad Company (Springfield, 1902).
- (32) Railroad and Warehouse Commission of Illinois. Annual Report of the St. Louis Iron Mountain and Southern Railway Company (Springfield, 1903).
- (33) Ibid.
- (34) For a detailed history of Fults, see IL HABS No. MO-1996-1.
- (35) Centennial Atlas Company. Plat Book of Monroe County, Illinois (Waterloo, 1916).
- (36) The Governor's Book of Confirmations, Illinois State Archives, n.d., page 5.

- (37) A comparison of Collot's map with a modern topographical map indicates the area of these salt works to strongly correspond with the present location of Valmeyer. The bluff lines are similar, and the route of modern Bluff Road closely follows that of the old Kaskaskia Road. The "pond" noted by Collot is probably Moredock Lake (also known as Eagle Lake), whose southern extension lies on the west side of Valmeyer. If so, one of these saltworks would have been located immediately north of the present community of Valmeyer (perhaps in the vicinity of the Columbia Quarry Company's plant), while the southermost of the two was located on the east side of the current town site. Future field research should focus on locating the remains of these early industrial sites.
- (38) "Statements Regarding the Extent of the J. Edgar Claims", Illinois State Archives, Springfield. Entry 14, dated 31 December 1804.
- McDonough 1883:412.
- (39) Monroe County Deed Record, Recorder of Deeds Office, Waterloo, Illinois, V:497-8.
- (40) In addition to the 331.2 acres in Survey 494, Friedlin Meyer sold his sons forty acres in the E1/2, N1/2, SE1/4 of Section 22, Township 2 South, Range 10 West, Monroe County. Jacob, Frederick, and Joseph Meyer paid \$5,000 for these properties (Monroe County Deed Record, V:420).
- Brink 1875:37.
- (41) Waterloo Times December 3, 1959, August 12, 1966.
- (42) Brink 1875:34; Deed Record 2:603.
- (43) The 900 acre farm managed by Jacob Meyer had been purchased by him and his brother from the estate of Stephen W. Miles Jr. for \$43,000 on June 11, 1873. Miles' father, Stephen W. Miles, Sr. was a native of New York State who immigrated to Illinois in 1819. By the middle nineteenth century, Stephen Miles Sr. had accumulated several thousand acres of land and was one of the largest land owners in the American Bottom (Monroe County Deed Record Book 17:17; Brink 1875:34; Stellhorn 1987:11-12). A house believed to have been erected on this property by Jacob Meyer is documented in IL HABS MO-1996-4-E.
- (44) U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Population Schedule: Monroe County, Illinois," 1870:1.

- (45) Brink 1875:37.
- (46) Monroe County Probate Record, County Clerk's Office, Waterloo, Illinois, Box M, Frederick Meyer File; Waterloo Times December 3, 1959.
- (47) George Meyer died sometime prior to September 10, 1894. On that date, Elizabeth Meyer deeded a quarter interest in her husband's former land holdings to George's children: Frederick M., Joseph C., Louisa P., Christina L., and George F. (Monroe County Deed Record, 27:576-7).
- (48) A 1901 atlas indicates that Joseph F. Meyer owned 226.18 acres between the two townships. The atlas also shows Charles Meyer owning 210 acres in Section 9, Township 3 South, Range 11 West, immediately adjacent to his holdings in Survey 494. Their sister, Emma (Meyer) Castelli, owned 378.66 in Townships 2 and 3 South during the same period.
- Ogle 1901:17, 32.
- (49) Ogle 1901:32.
- (50) The depot at Valmeyer was originally named "Moredock Station" by the railroad (Ardell Floarke et al. History of Valmeyer, Valmeyer, Illinois, 1933).
- (51) According to one source, the quarry was operated for the railroad by the Fordyce Construction Company. Associated with the quarry was boarding house, which potentially predates the founding of Valmeyer. This boarding house, operated by the Mahar Brothers (Michael R. Maher and Brother), was constructed in 1902 near the "Old Quarry Orchard" and served as a hotel, store (Maher Mercantile Company) as well as tavern during the early years of the settlement. During these early years, this area was referred to as Rock City. In 1912, when the railroad was sold to the Missouri Pacific, the machinery at the quarry was sold to the Columbia Quarry Company. In 1918, the Columbia Quarry Company reopened the Valmeyer Quarry (Floarke et al 1933). The Valmeyer Quarry Company was incorporated in March 1920. The purpose of this company was to sell "crushed stone, building material and fertilizer" as well as to "manufacture and sell lime and lime products" (Records of Articles of Corporation, Book A:261-264).
- (52) Waterloo Times December 3, 1959; Monroe County Deed Record Book 36:284-6.
- (53) Klein (1967:364-65) notes that the original rail bed and

track laid between 1901 and 1903 was worked by Negro laborers. In contrast, she notes that the second tract was laid by both Negro and white laborers --including a number of Greeks. This is in strong contrast to the 1910 census which indicates the presence of Bulgarians.

- (54) Castelli had married Emma Meyer in 1898. On June 11, 1902, he had purchased 13.62 acres in the center of Survey 494 for \$1,200, as a result of a master-in-chancery deed filed by Elizabeth Meyer et al against Lena Meyer et al. This was the tract of land which Valmeyer was platted (Monroe County Deed Record, 36:203-4).
- (55) Monroe County Surveyor's Book, Recorder of Deeds Office, Waterloo, Illinois, A:80.
- (56) A butcher by trade, Harrison was from the nearby community of Harrisonville. The 1910 Federal population census suggests that Harrison was living in Harrisonville and operating a butcher shop in that year. It is possible that Harrison was only the financier for the Valmeyer saloon, which may have been operated by someone else. At a later date, the building was sold to William Welsch who added living quarters (for boarders) and a dance hall (Klein 1967:546).
- (57) The Globe Hotel, owned and operated by Louis Miller or Mueller, was located in Lot 4, Block 3 of the original town of Valmeyer.
- (58) The Castelli House was one of the few houses in Valmeyer that was re-occupied after the Flood of 1993. It was, therefore, not documented for this report (See Steele, Mansberger and Stratton 1994 Survey Number 44).
- (59) Klein (1967) indicates that the Castelli House was constructed in 1903, but tax records suggest the later date indicated above.
- (60) Monroe County Collector's Book, Treasurer's Office, Waterloo, Illinois, 1903-1905.
- (61) In 1910, the Lake Street school was enlarged with the addition of a second story (Waterloo Times December 3, 1959; Floarke et al. 1933).
- (62) All of these men, except for Herman Rump, are known to have been living in Valmeyer or in the immediate vicinity.
- (63) Record of Articles of Corporation, A:67.



(64) Monroe County Deed Record 37:487-88; Monroe County Tax Assessment Records, County Clerk's Office, Waterloo, Illinois.

(65) Waterloo Times December 3, 1959.

The lumberyard environs may have extended beyond Lots 3 and 4, and included Lots 10, 11, 12, and 13 immediately to the north. The date given for the founding of the lumberyard and its subsequent sale to Niebruegge and Sondag is open to question. A Waterloo Times article gives the dates above, while the "Farmers State Bank (1984) suggests that the date was either 1905 or 1907.

(66) Waterloo Times December 3, 1959.

(67) Monroe County Surveyor's Book, Recorder of Deeds Office, Waterloo, Illinois, A:90.

(68) According to state law, a community needed at least 300 people in it to organize as a village, yet in 1910 only 267 people were listed in the census. Nonetheless, the powers to be filed their petition to be incorporated.

(69) The articles of corporation state that a community required a minimum population of 300 before incorporation could be considered.

Record of Articles of Corporation A:121-4.

(70) Monroe County Surveyor's Book A:131, A:129, A:130, A:170.

(71) While it is not known with certainty, Schwing's lighting system may have initially covered only the commercial district, west of the railroad tracks. At a later date, the village board granted Herman Linker a separate franchise to furnish electricity on the east side of the tracks (Waterloo Times December 3, 1959; Floeker et al. 1933).

(72) This is suggested by several photographs of Valmeyer, taken prior to 1920. A photograph taken from the bluff overlooking the town in 1926 suggests that Main Street and several other thoroughfares may have been covered with gravel by that date (Waterloo Times 1966).

(73) Waterloo Times December 3, 1959.

(74) Waterloo Times December 3, 1959.

(75) The Columbia Quarry Company had acquired the quarry in 1912

from the Missouri-Pacific Company, which had purchased the old St. Louis Valley Railroad and its associated property earlier that year (Floarke et al. 1933).

- (76) Floarke et al. 1933.
- (77) Valmeyer Community High School Booster May 1935; Waterloo Times December 3, 1959.
- (78) Valmeyer Community High School Booster December 1935, October 1936; Waterloo Times December 3, 1959.
- (79) Waterloo Times December 3, 1959.
- (80) Waterloo Times December 3, 1959.
- (81) Several explanations have been given for the presence of double entrance doors on the houses of this region (See for example Coggeshall 1984:124-25). Two of the more logical explanations given by Coggeshall (1984:124-25) is 1) that the double doors reflected a German ideal of "having every room open to the outside for ventilation purposes," and 2) that they "reflected the desire of two closely-related households to share a home, or at least one building." It is my opinion that one door functioned as a formal entrance to the parlor, to be used by guests, and that the second door accessed the downstairs sleeping room --which was a private door used by the family. This downstairs bedroom may have been used by an elderly member of the family, or by a rentor --in either case, it allowed for the individual to exit the house without having access to the formal parlor.
- (82) Glassie, Henry. Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States. University of Pennsylvania Press: Philadelphia, 1968, 99.
- (83) 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.
- Kniffen, Fred. Louisiana House Types. Annals of the Association of American Geographers 26:179-93.
- (84) Coney, William B. and Barbara M. Posadas, "Concrete in Illinois: Its History and Preservation," Illinois Preservation Series, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Division of Preservation Services, n.d., 6.
- (85) No concrete block machinery was advertised in the 1902

catalog. The 1908 catalog is the next published catalog that was available to this author. As such, Sears appears to have introduced the concrete block machinery sometime between 1902 and 1908.

Sears, Roebuck and Company, Catalogue No. 117, The Great Price Maker, 1908. Digest Books, Northfield, 1971.

Sears, Roebuck and Company, The 1902 Edition of the Sears, Roebuck Catalogue. Gramercy Books, New York, 1993.

- (86) See discussion in Floyd Mansberger and Christopher Stratton, The Merkel Farmstead, HABS No. IL-1191, Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Regional Office, Denver, Colorado, 1995, IL-1191-A, page 27.
- (87) Waterloo Times December 3, 1959; Floarke et al 1933.
- (88) Prange, Merrill, Personal communication, March 11, 1996.
- (89) Prange, Merrill, Personal communication, March 11, 1996.
- (90) 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.

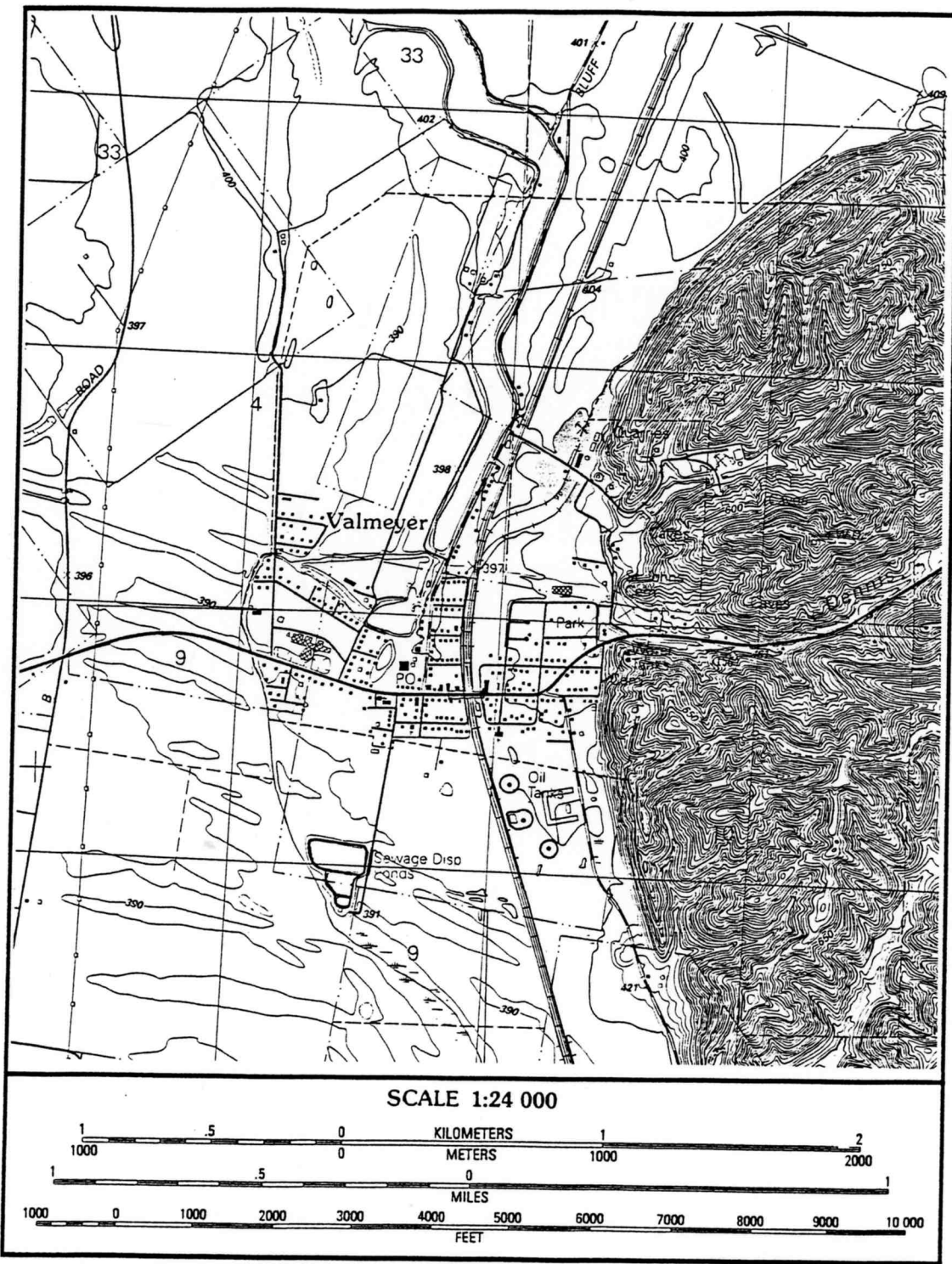


Figure 1. Location of Valmeyer, Monroe County, Illinois (Valmeyer, IL 1991 U.S.G.S. Topographic Map).

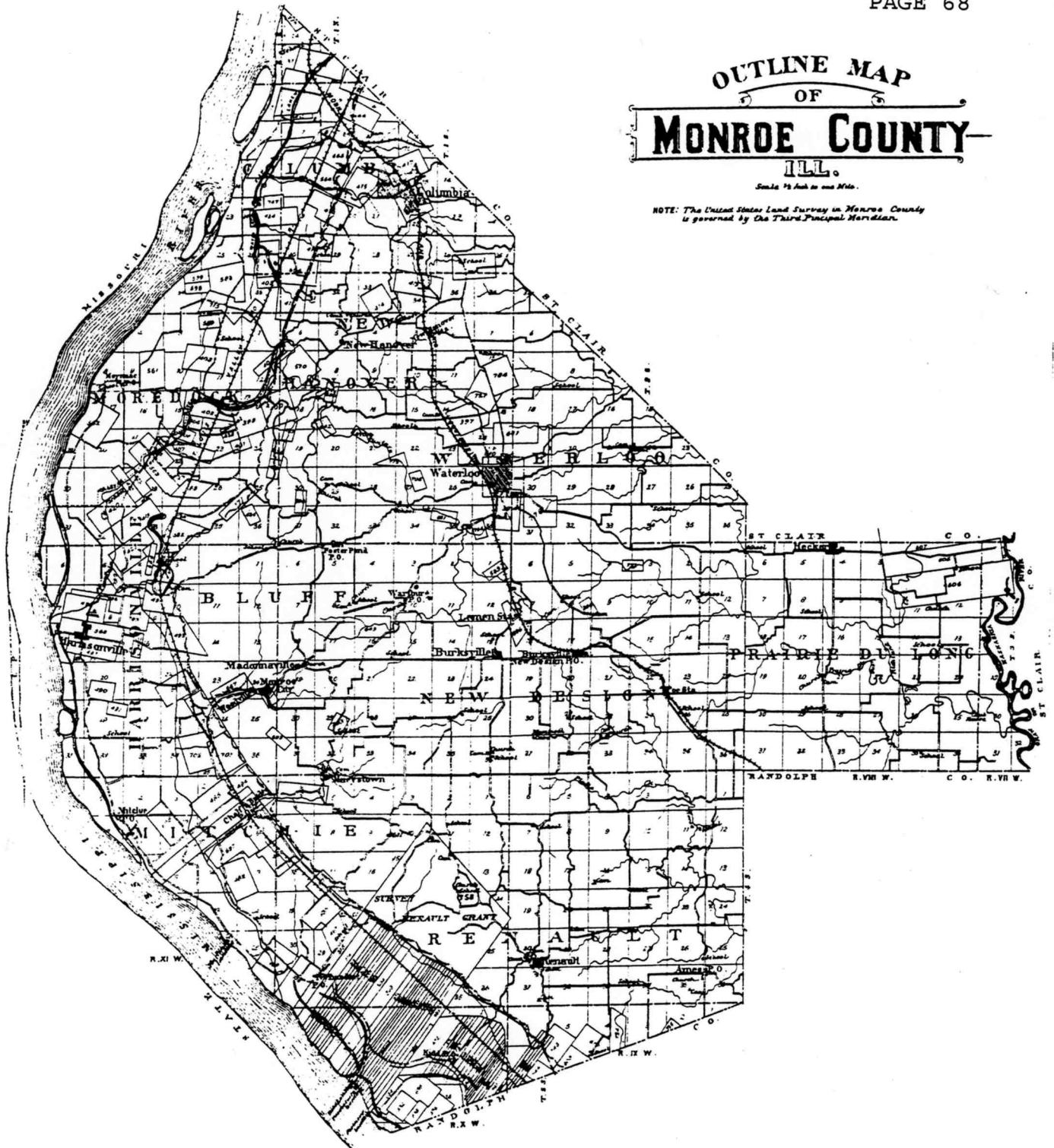


Figure 2. Outline Map of Monroe County, Illinois  
(Ogle 1901).



Figure 3. Vicinity of present day Valmeyer as illustrated on Collot's ca. 1796 map of the American Bottom (Collot 1826). Note the bluff base road with two saltworks.



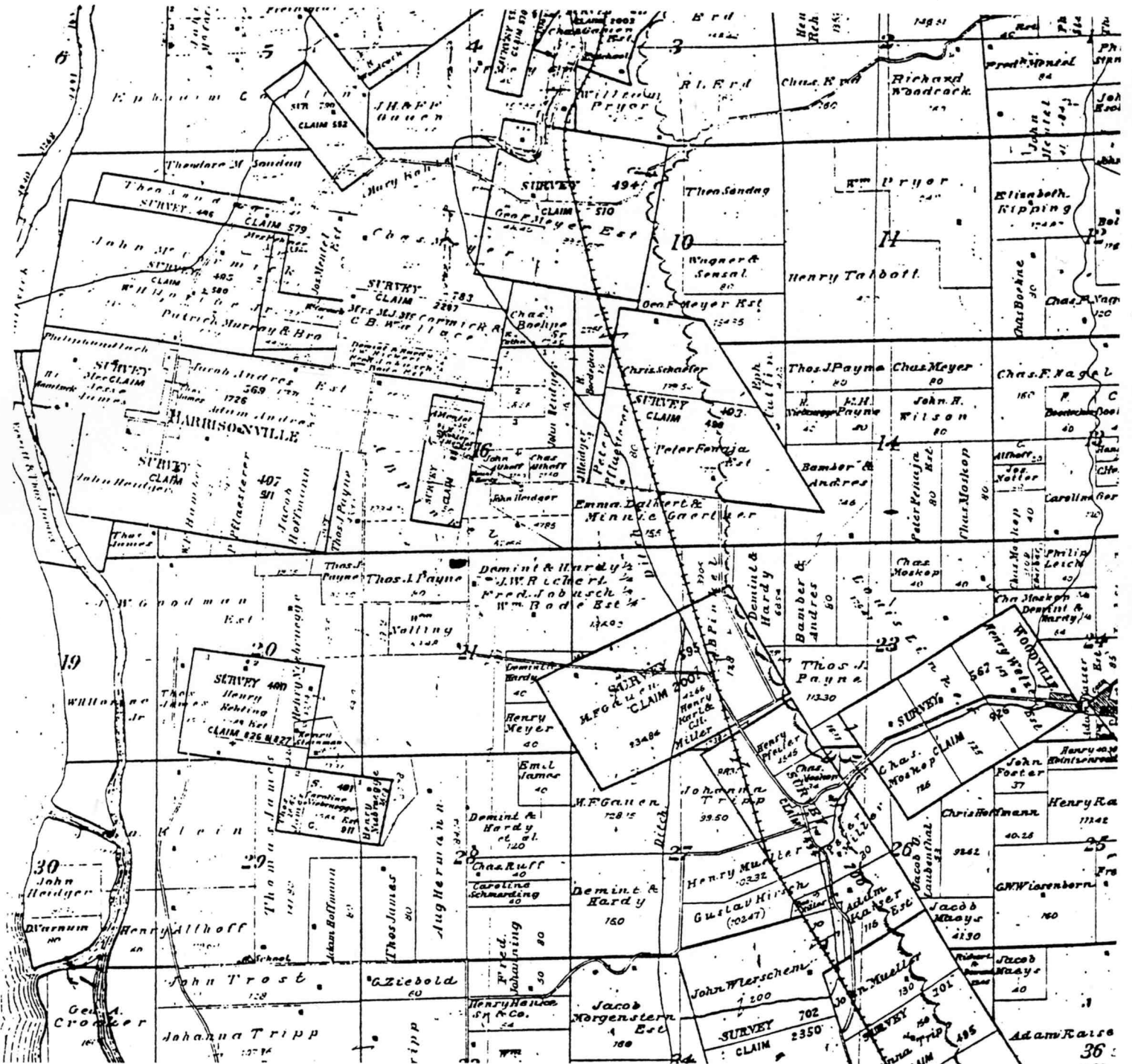


Figure 5. Project area as illustrated in Standard Atlas of Monroe County, Illinois (Ogle 1901:32).



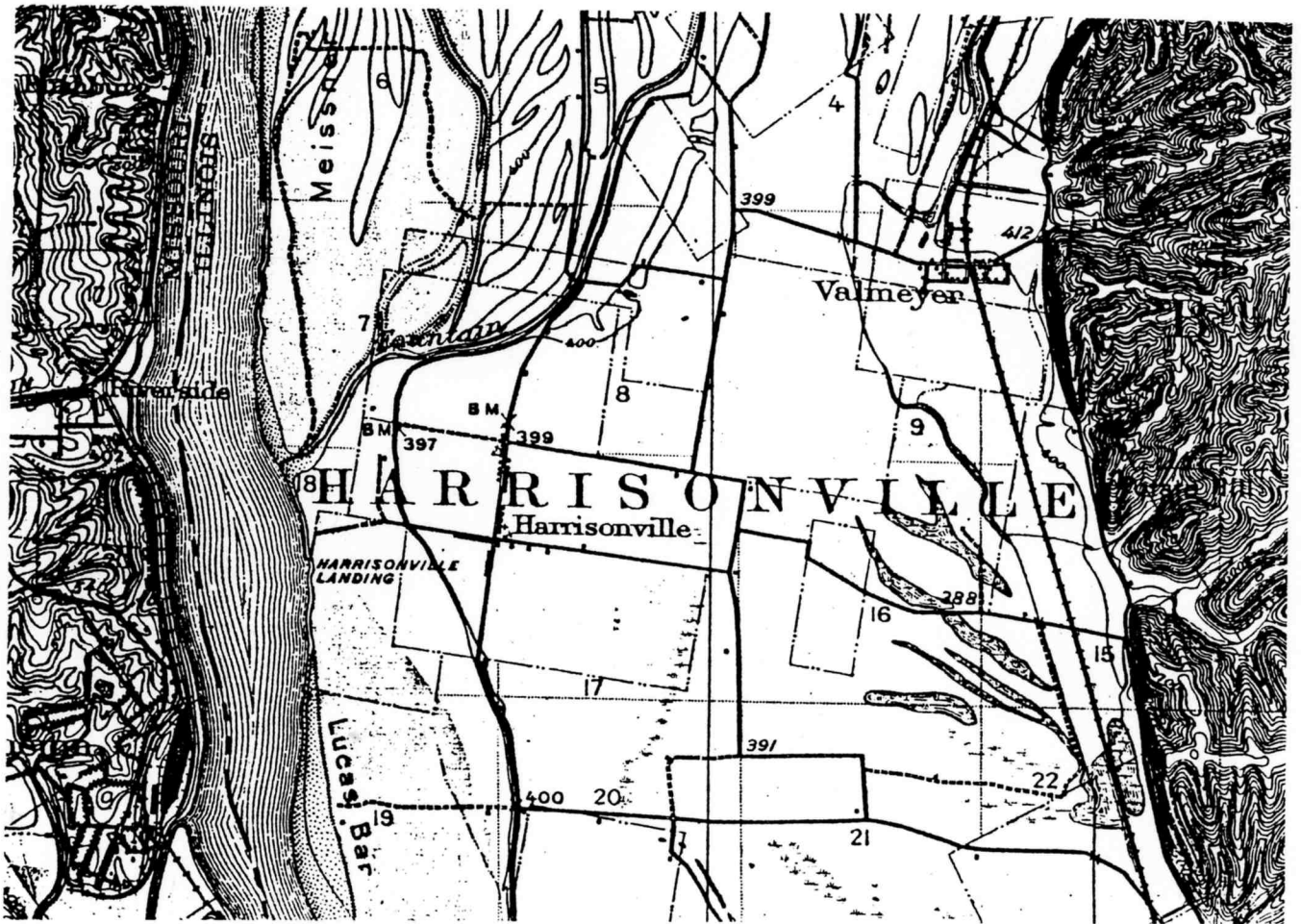


Figure 6. Location of Valmeyer, Monroe County, Illinois as surveyed in 1910 and 1914 (Kimmswick, IL 1916 U.S.G.S. Topographic Map).

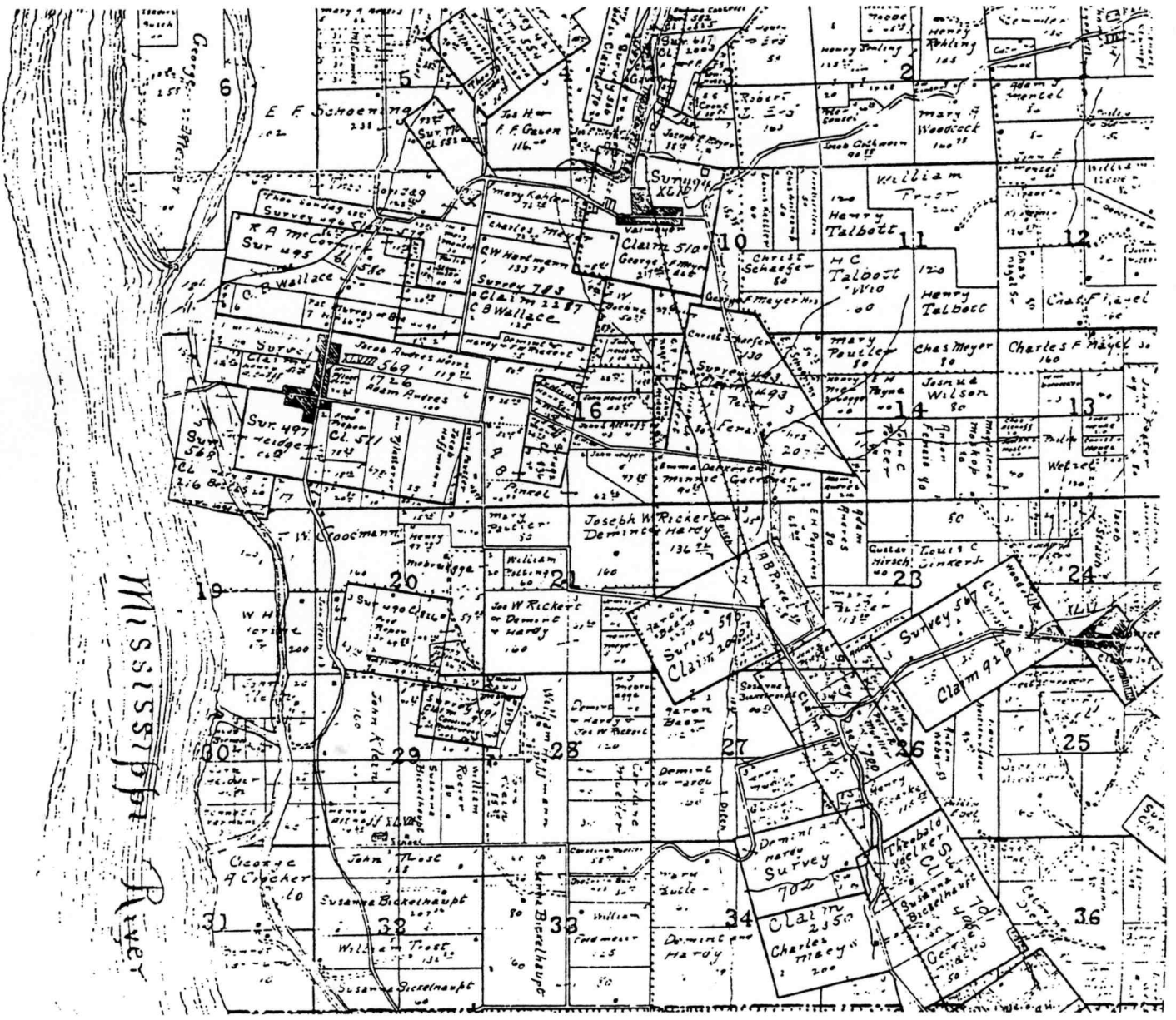


Figure 7. Project area as illustrated in Plat Book of Monroe County, Illinois (Centennial Atlas Company 1916:34).

# Val MEYER CITY

Section 36, T. 2. S. R. 11. W.  
 Monroe County, Illinois

that the 7.750  
 acreage of  
 Claim 50 in  
 and State of Illinois

State of Illinois }  
 Monroe County }  
 that  
 Meyer City and its  
 a true and correct  
 copy dedicates this St  
 shown in the map



State of Illinois  
 Monroe County  
 in and for a  
 heretofore  
 to me to be  
 is the true and  
 this day in  
 signed, sealed  
 and attested  
 therein at

Figure 8. Original plat of Meyer City, 1902 (Monroe County Recorder of Deeds Office, Waterloo, Illinois).

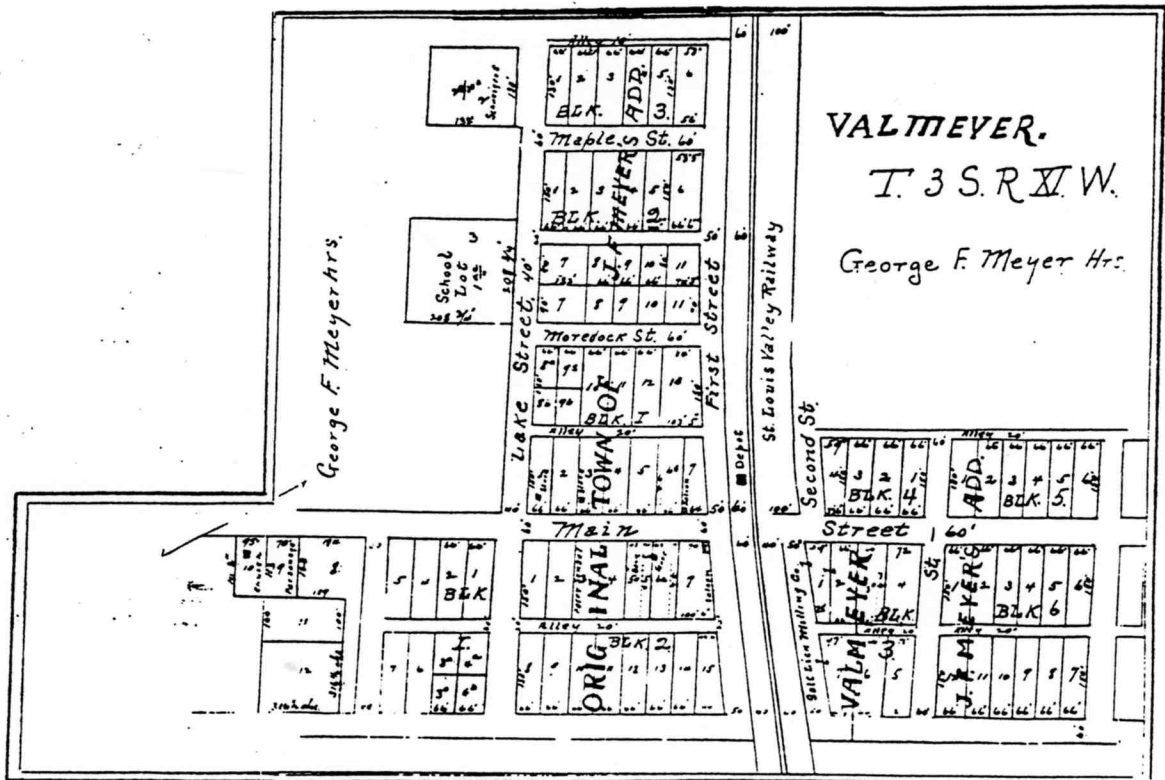


Figure 9. Original town plat of Valmeyer as illustrated in Centennial Atlas Company (1916:16).

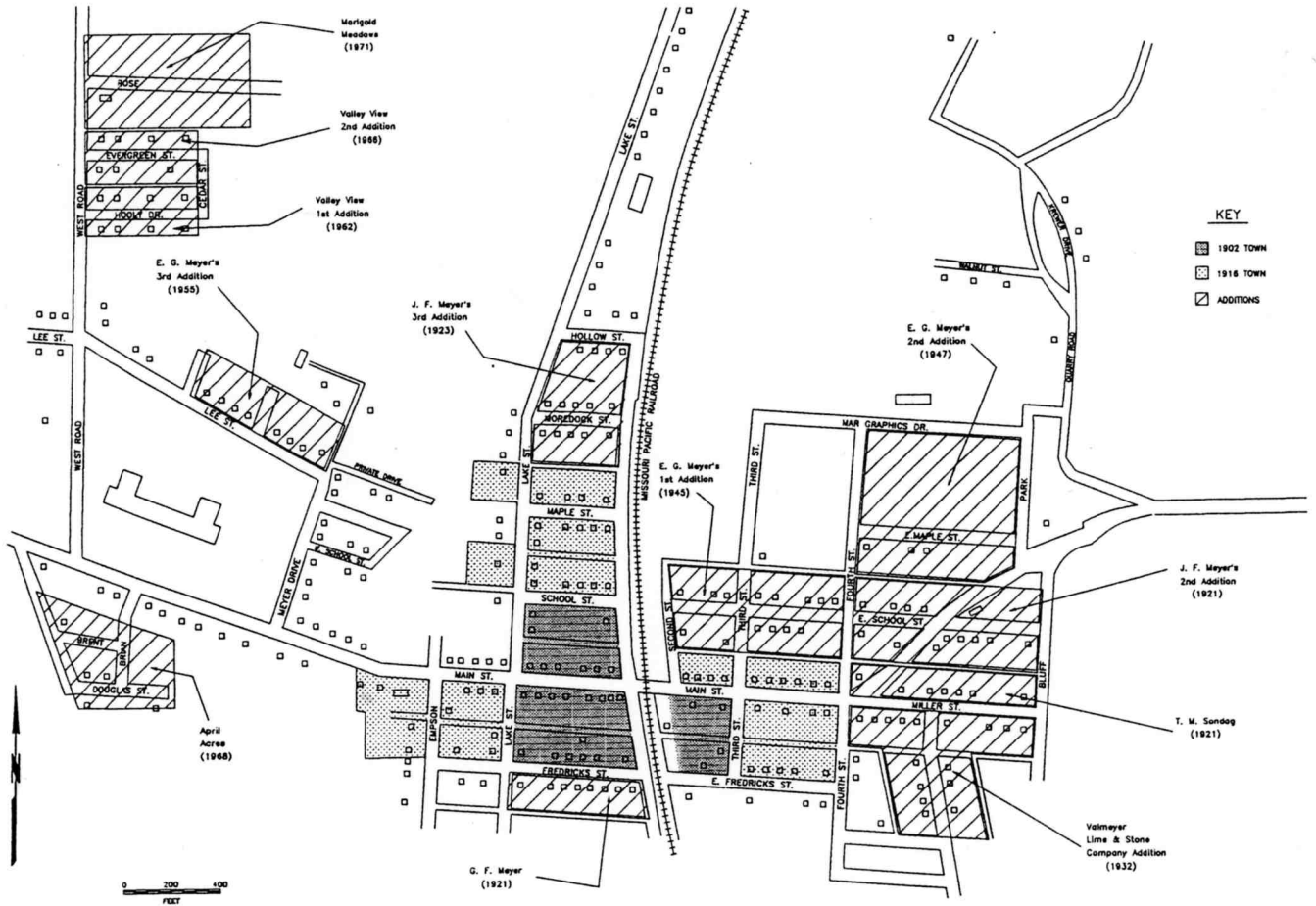


Figure 10. Subdivisions in Valmeyer and their date of platting.



Figure 11. Distribution of all pre-1940 houses in Valmeyer. For descriptions of each house, see Steele, Mansberger, Stratton 1994.

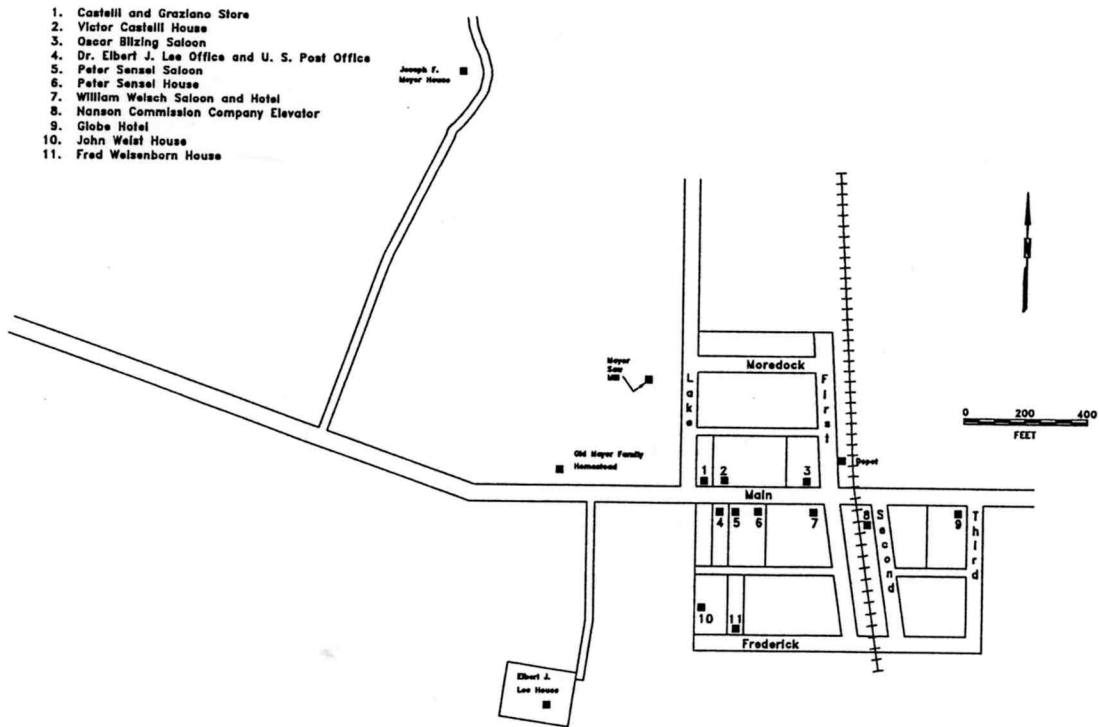


Figure 12. Valmeyer in 1905 as reconstructed from tax records and published histories.

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Adam Maus House                         | 21. Globe Hotel                      |
| 2. Leo Moskop Boarding House               | 22. Henrietta Laub House             |
| 3. Oscar Bilzing House                     | 23. Adam Hoffmann House              |
| 4. John P. Moskop House                    | 24. Peter Mueller Rental House       |
| 5. Moskop Bottling Plant                   | 25. Paul Sensel House                |
| 6. Fred Niemann House                      | 26. Fred Schlemmer House             |
| 7. Castell and Graziano Store              | 27. Fred Walsborn House              |
| 8. Victor Castell House                    | 28. Henry Daann Rental House         |
| 9. Niebrugge and Sandag Hardware Store     | 29. Charles Mehrmann House           |
| 10. John Sperber House                     | 30. Caroline Schlemmer Rental House  |
| 11. Oscar Bilzing Saloon                   | 31. John Ladner House                |
| 12. William Sandag House                   | 32. Charles Lerch Rental House       |
| 13. Charles Pfisterer House                | 33. William C. Sturmman Rental House |
| 14. George P. Hutter House and Barber Shop |                                      |
| 15. Peter Sensel Saloon                    |                                      |
| 16. Peter Sensel House                     |                                      |
| 17. Farmers Bank                           |                                      |
| 18. Valmeyer Mercantile Company            |                                      |
| 19. William Welsh Saloon and Hotel         |                                      |
| 20. Valmeyer Milling Company               |                                      |

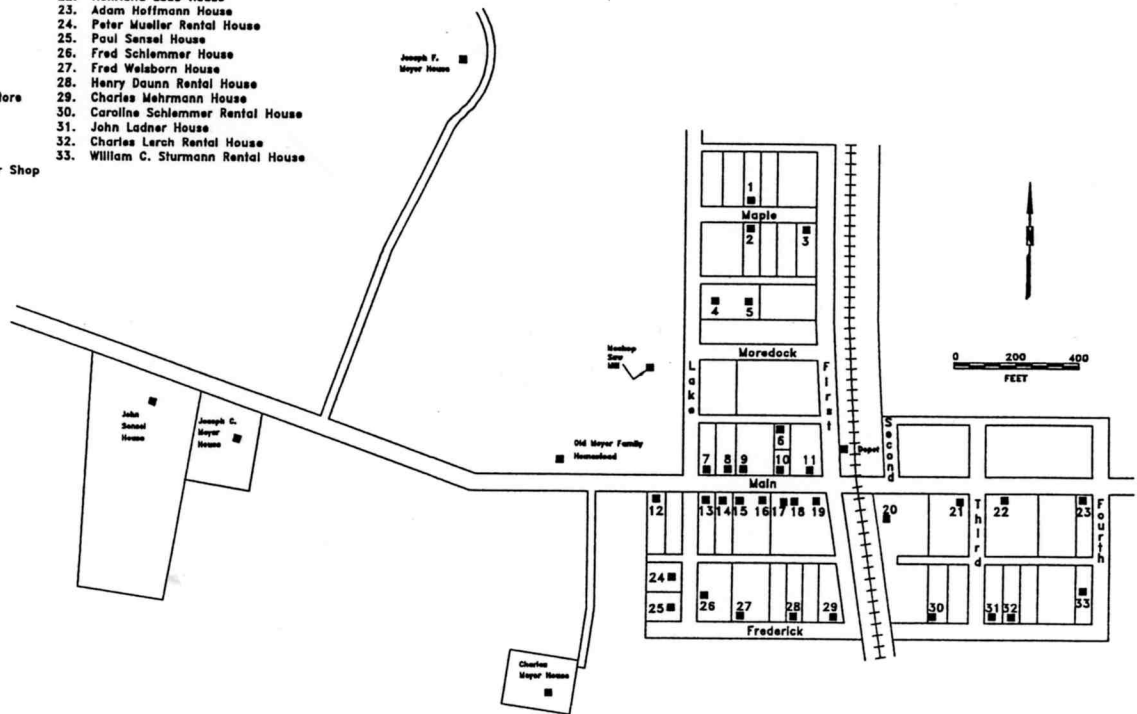


Figure 13. Valmeyer in 1910 as reconstructed from tax records and published histories.



1. Charles Weltkamp House
2. Phillip M. Maus Rental House
3. Charles Schweikhardt House and Soda Shop
4. William Boehne House
5. Lewis Wallace House
6. Oscar Blizng Rental House
7. School
8. John P. Moskop House
9. August Perl Rental House
10. Martin Kohnz House
11. Phillip Ritzel House
12. Peter Kohnz House
13. Phillip Klein House
14. Frank Pfalzter House
15. Emma Maroth House
16. Victor Castelli Store
17. Charles Schaefer House
18. Niebrugge and Sondag Hardware Store
19. Oscar Blizng Saloon
20. Louis Bald Blacksmith Shop
21. Hermann Linker Machine Shop
22. Anton Schiller Rental House
23. John Eich House
24. Hannah J. Beattie Rental House
25. John Boersch House
26. St. Johannes Church
27. Parsonage

28. Dr. J. P. Miller House
29. William Sondag House
30. S. H. McCormick House and Funeral Home
31. Charles Pfalzter House
32. George P. Hutter House and Barber Shop
33. Peter Sensel Saloon
34. Peter Sensel House
35. Fred Louer, Jr. Butcher Shop
36. Farmers State Bank of Valmeyer
37. Valmeyer Mercantile Company
38. William Welsch Saloon and Hotel
39. Salt Lick Milling Company
40. Theodore Sondag Rental House
41. Mary C. Miller Hotel
42. Henrietta Laub House
43. William G. Miller
44. Salt Lick Milling Company Rental House
45. Peter Mueller Rental House
46. Paul Sensel House
47. Jacob Zimmer House
48. Fred Welsenborn House
49. William Schaefer Rental House
50. Henry Allhoff Rental House
51. Caroline Schlemmer House
52. Henry C. Nilmann Rental House
53. Lizzie Pfalzter House
54. Emil Untersch House
55. Thomas Koester House

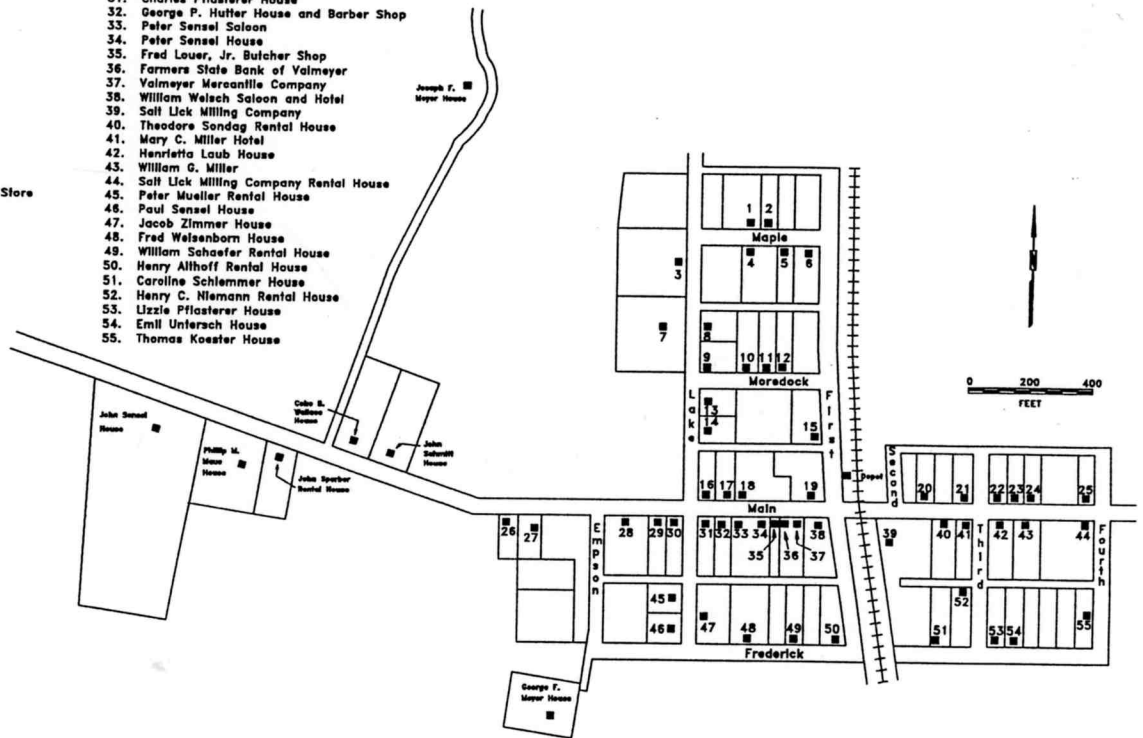


Figure 14. Valmeyer in 1920 as reconstructed from tax records and published histories.

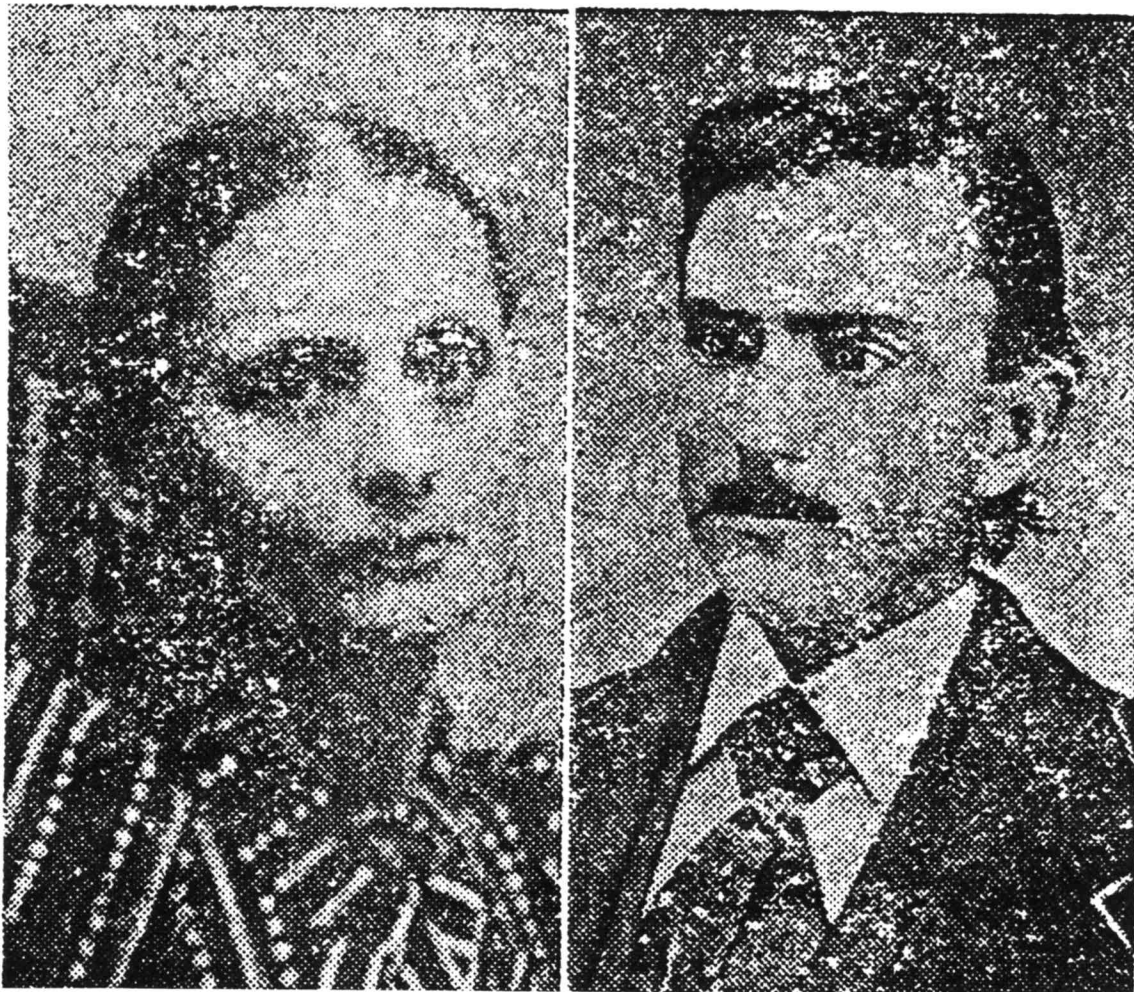


Figure 15. George F. and Magdalena Meyer (Waterloo Times December 3, 1959).



Figure 16. Joseph F. and Margaret Meyer (Waterloo Times December 3, 1959).

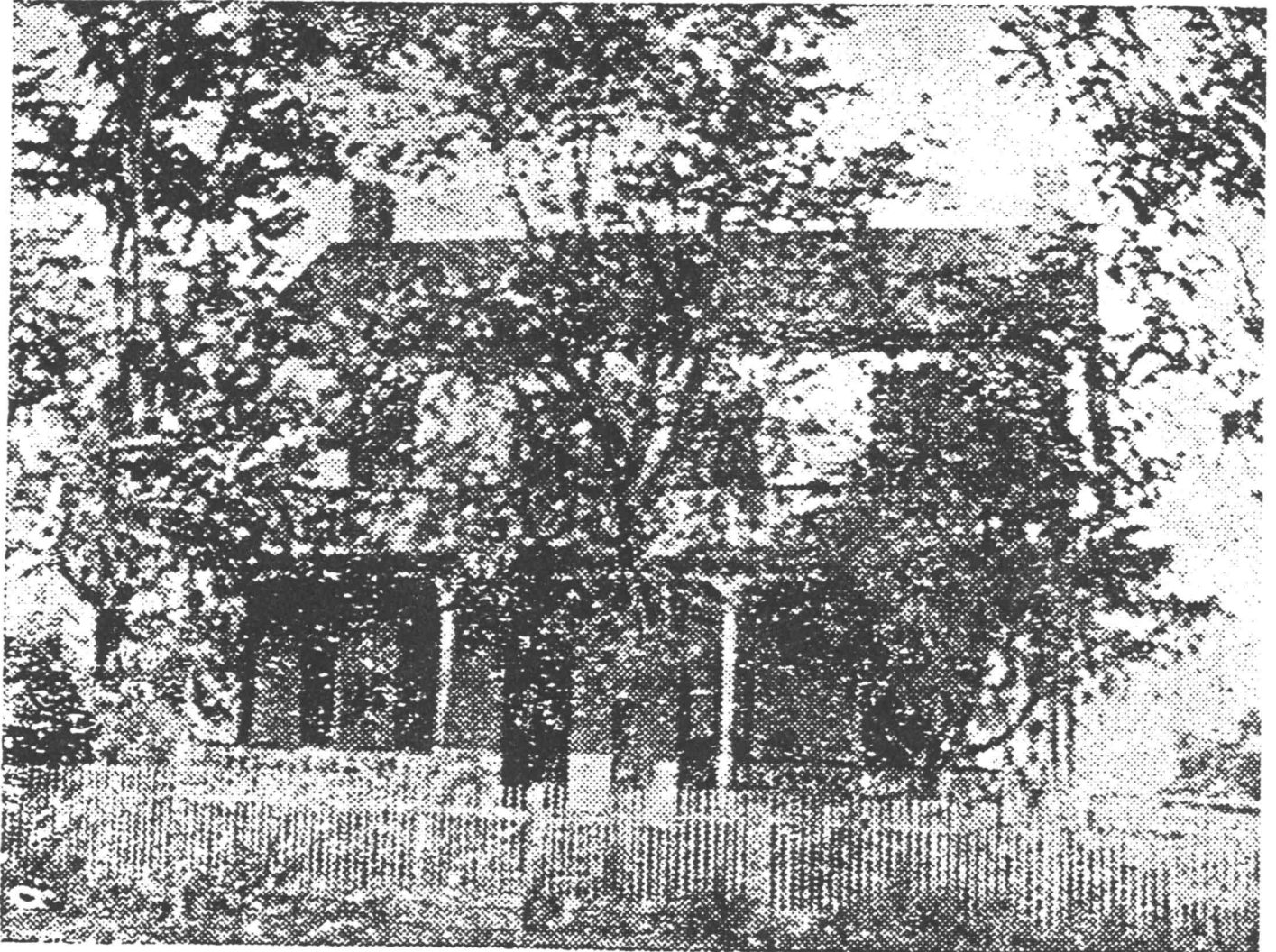


Figure 17. Home of Frederick Meyer, erected in 1857, destroyed by fire in 1919 (Waterloo Times December 3, 1959).

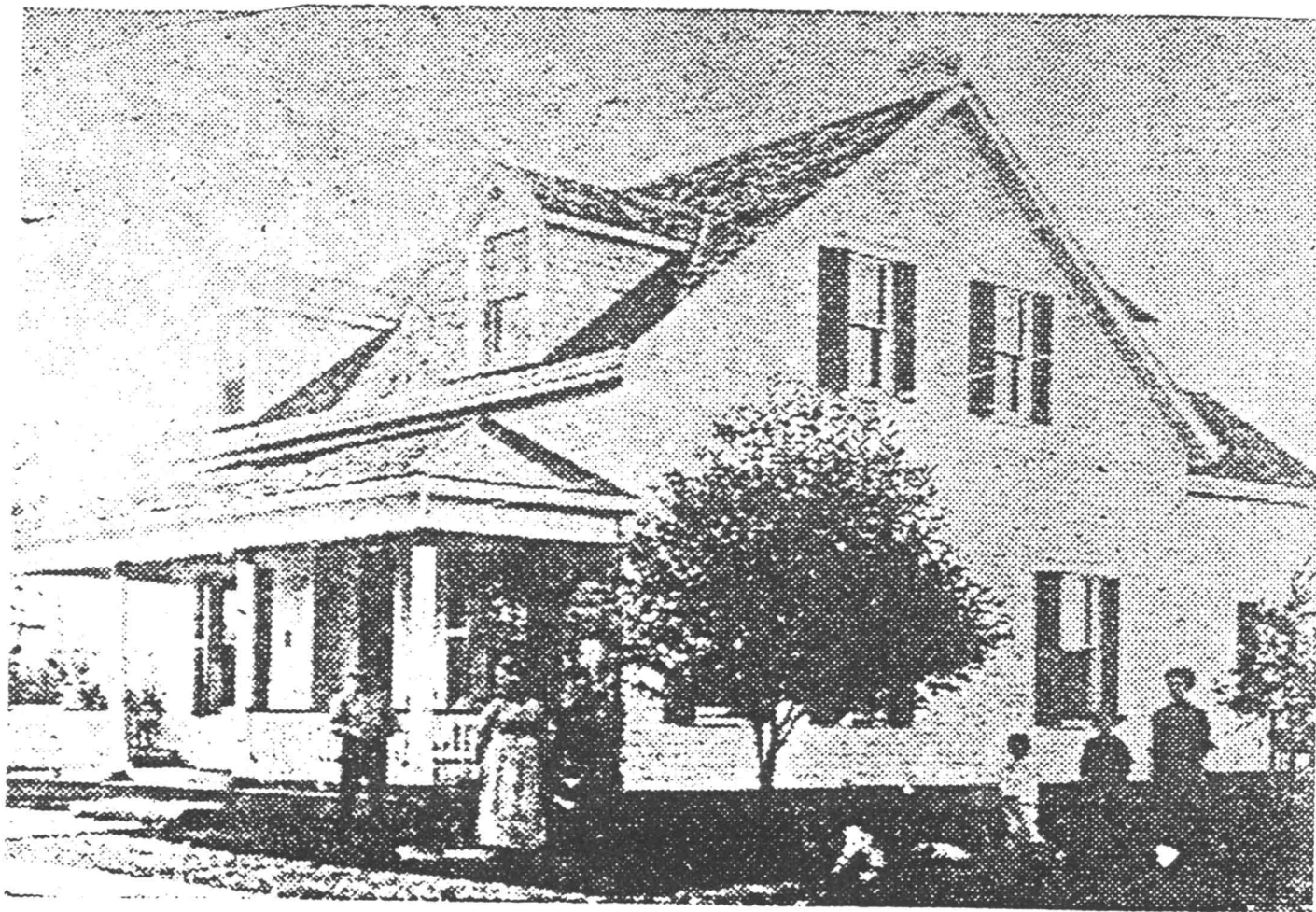


Figure 18. Home of Dr. Elbert J. Lee and later Charles Meyer (Waterloo Times December 3, 1959).

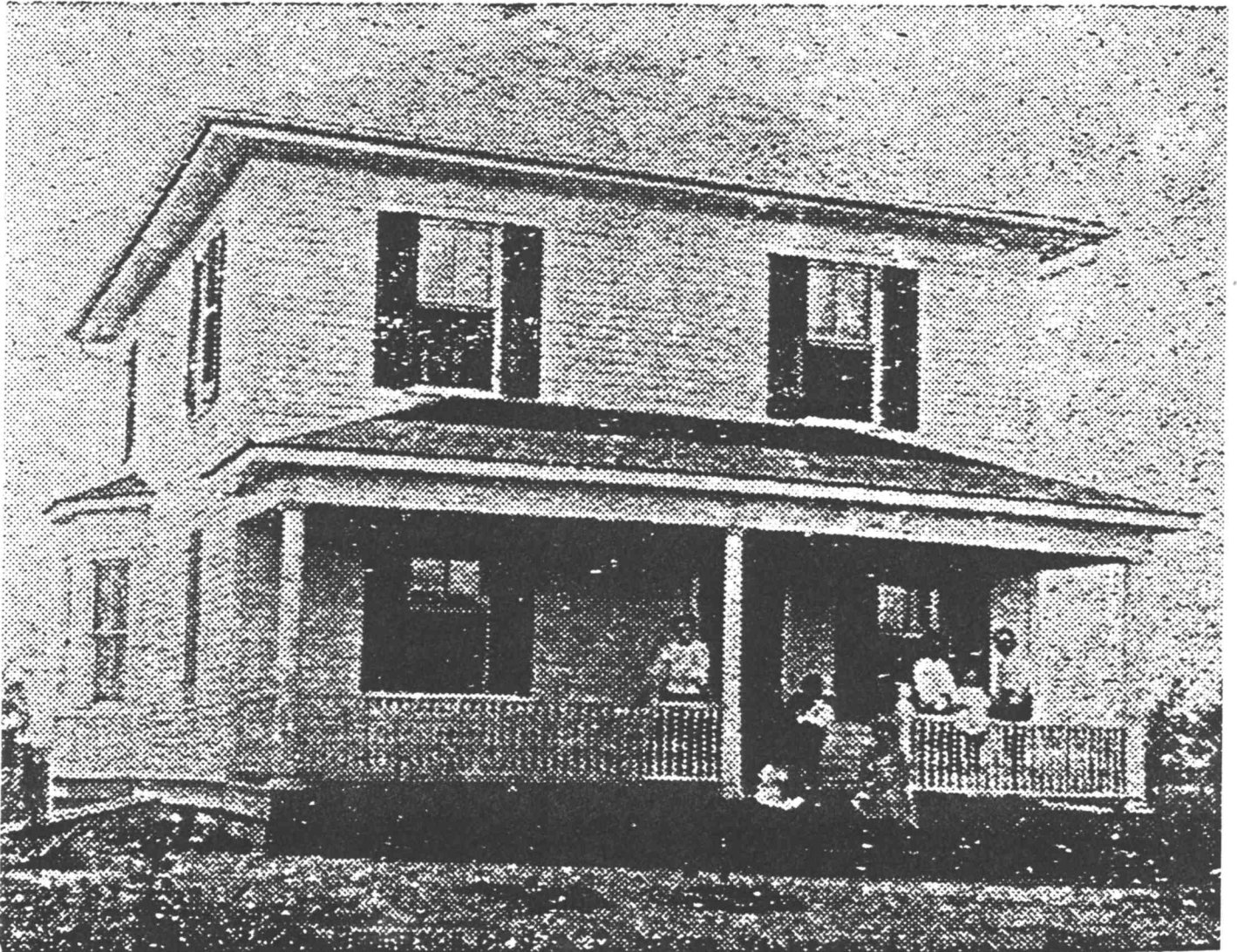


Figure 19. Home of Joseph C. Meyer (Waterloo Times  
December 3, 1959).

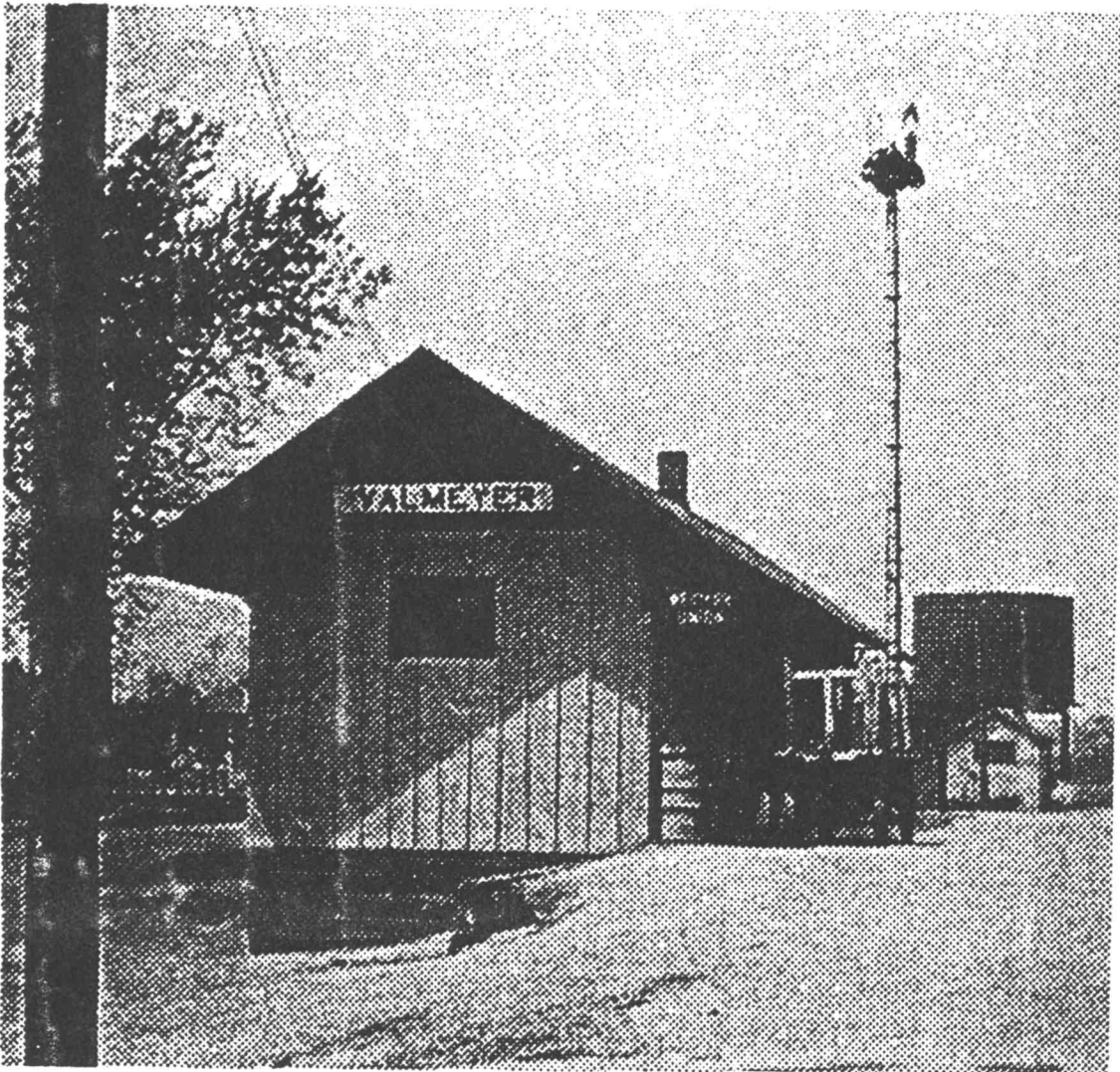


Figure 20. Valmeyer railroad station, with water tank in background (Farmers State Bank 1984:5).



Figure 21. The Cottage Hotel at Rock City. Located at the Valmeyer Quarry in 1902, it serviced railroad workers (Richards Collection).





Figure 22. Louis Miller's Globe Hotel and Saloon, located on Lot 4, Block 3 of the original town of Valmeyer. Date unknown (Richards Collection).

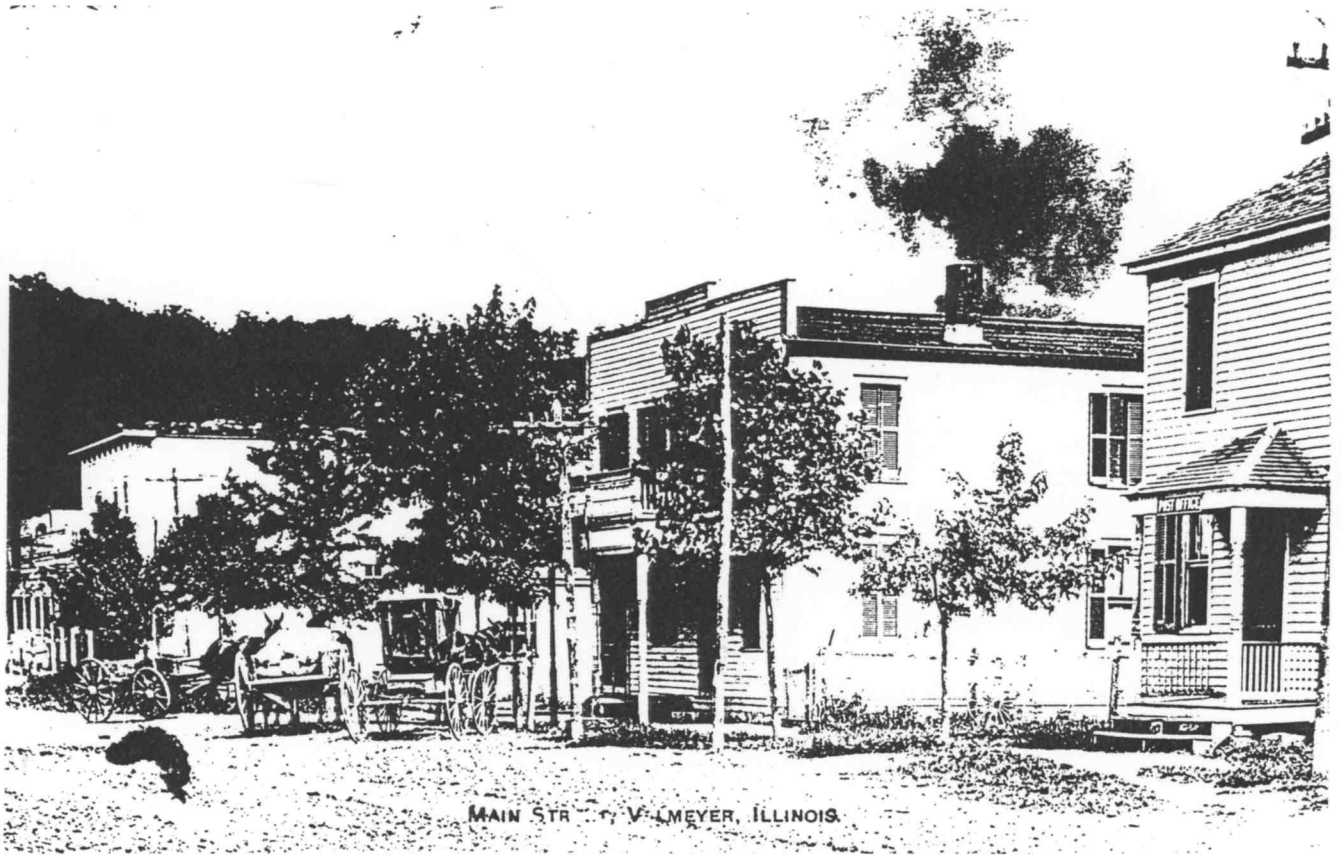


Figure 23. Valmeyer Street Scene, ca 1907 (Richards Collection, n.d.).



Figure 24. Main street in Valmeyer ca. 1914, looking east toward the bluffs. The brick building on the north side of the street is the Castelli and Graziano store. The buildings on the south side, beginning in the extreme right are: the Charles Pflasterer house; the George Hutter house and barbershop; Peter Sensel's saloon; a commercial building containing the butcher shop run by John Naumann and Fred Louer; the Bank of Valmeyer building (its cornice can just barely be seen between the neighboring buildings); the Valmeyer Mercantile Company building; and William Welsch's hotel and saloon (Postcard dated August 6, 1914; Richards Collection).

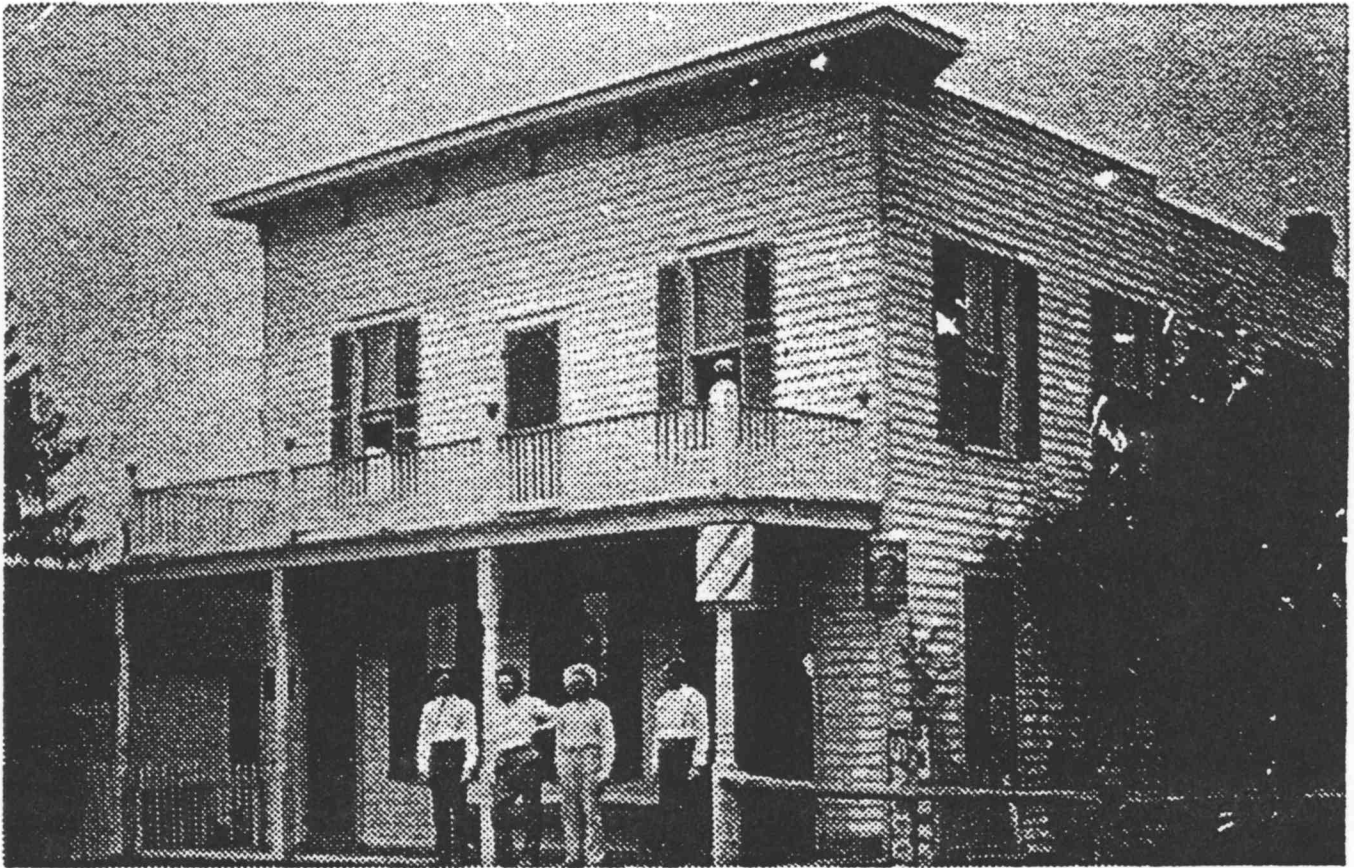


Figure 25. Oscar Bilzing Tavern located in Lot 7, Block 1 of the original town of Valmeyer. No longer standing ("Farmers State Bank 1909-1984", 1984:3).

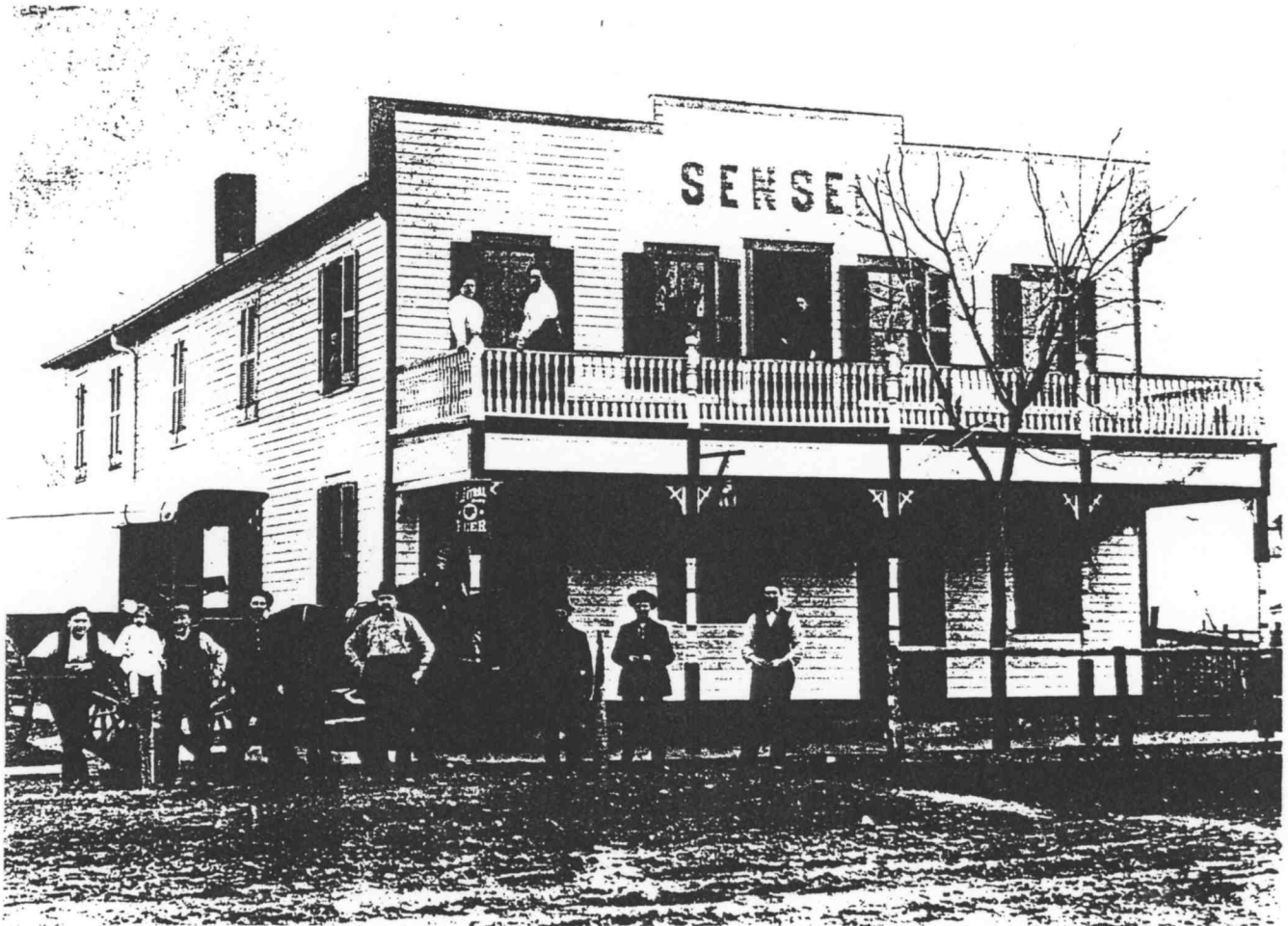


Figure 26. Peter Sensel's saloon, located on Lot 3, Block 2 of the original town of Valmeyer. Date unknown (Richards Collection).



Figure 27. Niebruegge and Sondag Hardware Store, ca. 1912 (Richards Collection).



Figure 28. Early photograph of frame school on Lake Street (Waterloo Times, December 3, 1959).

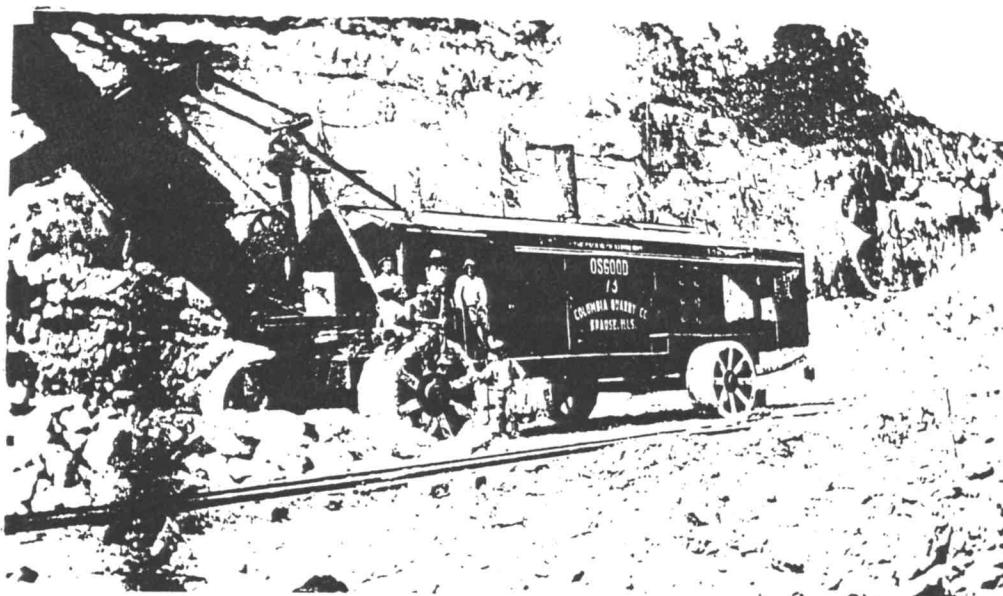


Figure 29. Top, Valmeyer Quarry gang during the 1940s. Bottom, shovel and crew in 1927. (Richards Collection).



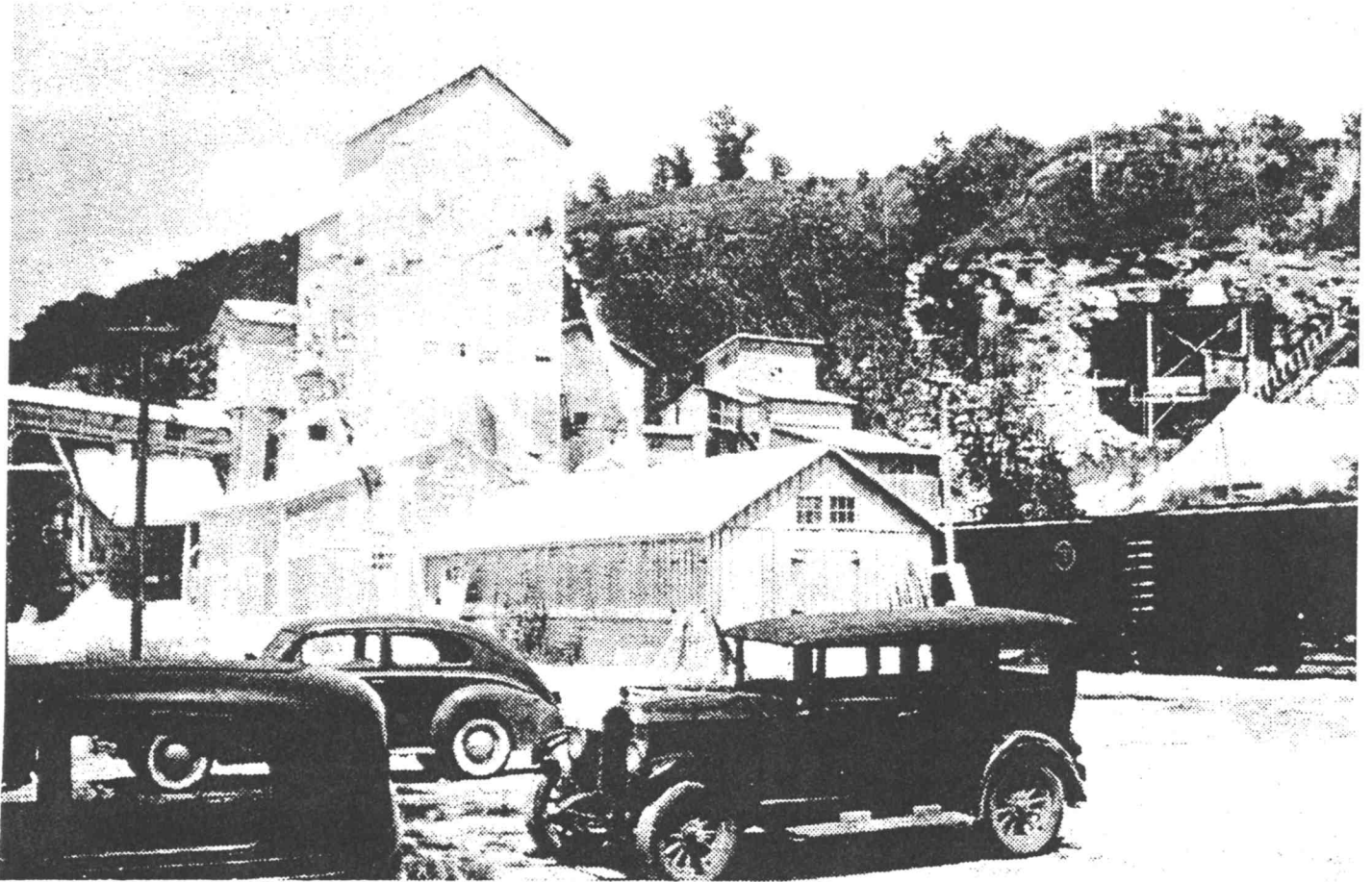


Figure 30. Valmeyer Quarry in 1927 (Klein 1967).

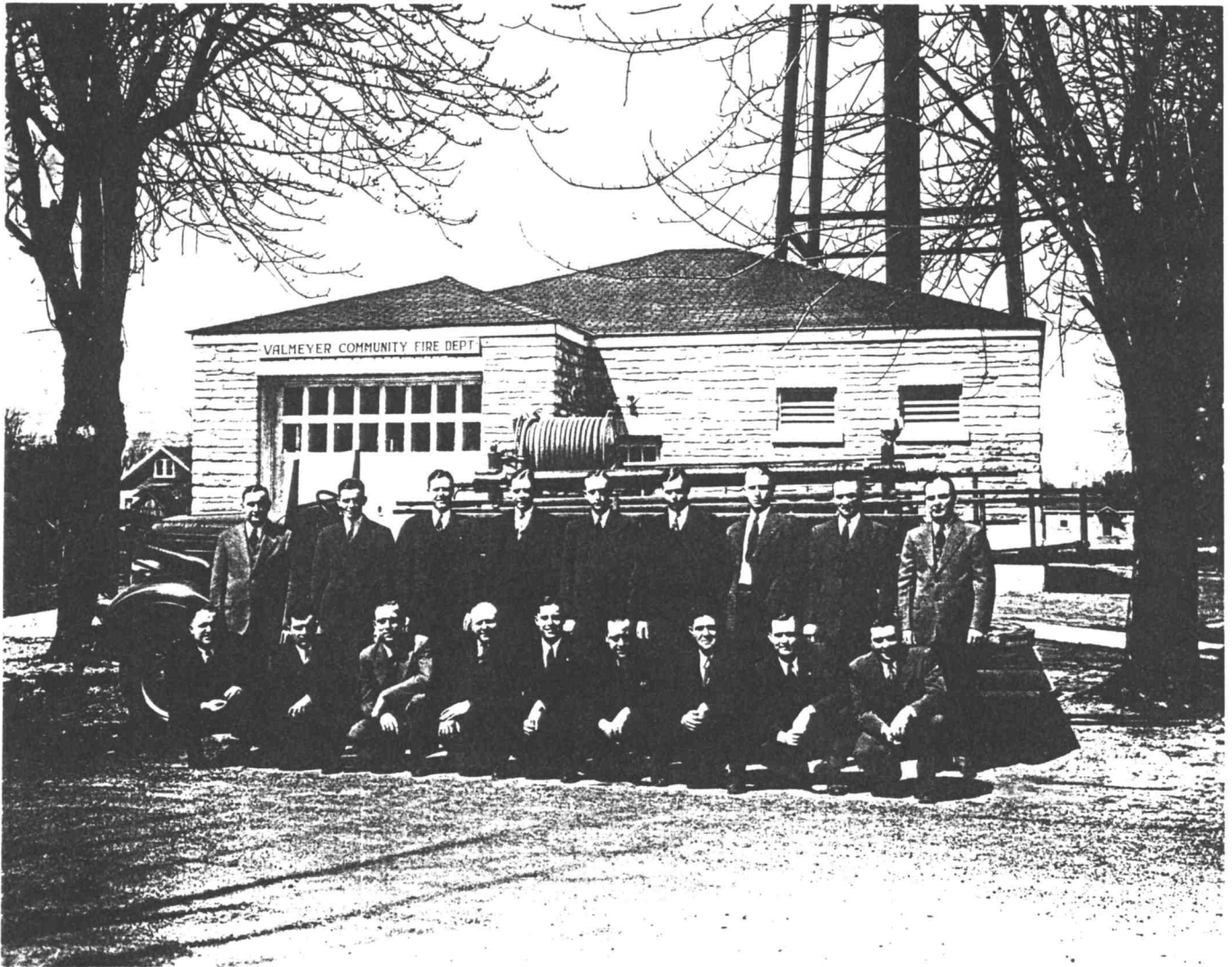


Figure 31. Valmeyer Community Fire Department in front of Town Hall. Date unknown (Richards Collection).

RETURN IMMEDIATELY IF NOT CORRECT.

Valmeyer, Illinois, Dec 2 1910  
 M. A. Chas Meyer



**NIEBRUEGGE & SONDAG,**  
 Lumber, Hardware, Farm Machinery, Paints and Oils,  
 Wire Fencing, Lime and Cement, Etc.

DATE	PIECES	SIZE	LENGTH	FEET	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	AMOUNT	TOTAL
					Returned Material			
8/13					Varnish		125-	
"					3/8 gal. Extra Damar		110	
"					7 lbs Zinc	12 1/2	84	
"					100 Shingles		410	
"	14	4	16	21	#1 4" P.	3 00	63	
"	4	1	6	32	- a - cyp sdy.			
"	11	6	8	41-36	" " "	3 00	108	9.00

**NIEBRUEGGE & SONDAG**

—DEALERS IN—

**LUMBER, HARDWARE AND FARM MACHINERY**

We carry a complete stock of Building material besides a stock of hardware unsurpassed by any one in the County.  
 Let us quote you prices before buying elsewhere.

VALMEYER, :: :: ILLINOIS.

Figure 32. Niebruegge and Sondag invoice (1910; Monroe County Probate Records) and advertisement (Waterloo Times August 25, 1909).

# THE WIZARD CONCRETE BUILDING BLOCK MACHINES

**AUTOMATIC IN THE REAL SENSE OF THE WORD  
THE RAPID BLOCK PRODUCERS—THE BIG MONEY MAKERS**

**OUR WIZARD CONCRETE BUILDING BLOCK MACHINES** which are developed in concrete building block machinery, and so far as we know they are the only strictly automatic block machines on the market at the present time. They are automatic in opening and closing, they are lured automatically, the cores are drawn automatically and that the pressure of the foot never causes the cores to enter and take their places haphazardly. These machines produce a perfect block because they square up perfectly, level finally and open without jarring, and because the shape of the cores is such that no tamping is required before the cores are entered into the mould, consequently there is no hard tamped parting line and the jarring of the machine when turning and opening the mould which breaks the blocks and causes the greatest trouble for the block maker who uses the usual type of machine. There is none of this trouble in the Wizard.

**THE WIZARD IS THE MOST RAPID BLOCK MAKER** on the market strictly a one-man machine; that is, one man can operate it as easily and we believe as rapidly as two men can operate an ordinary machine costing twice as much as we ask for the Wizard. This is what the automatic features accomplish for you; in other words, we furnish you a machine at about one-half the price others ask, with which you can make blocks about twice as fast as on other machines.

**THE WIZARD BLOCK MACHINE** is made in various sizes, to meet all requirements. In the standard length of block, namely 16 inches long, we run various sizes of machines for making blocks 8 inches high by either 8 inches, 10 inches or 12 inches wide, and in the 24-inch length of block we run various machines for making blocks 8 inches high by either 8 inches or 12 inches wide. You can purchase a separate machine for each size of block, or you can purchase one or more separate machines and so many of the different interchangeable moulds as you wish. Depending upon the completeness of the outfit you want, because all of the different sizes of moulds fit into the same frame or stand and each is complete with all the parts necessary to make the change, which change can be made easily and quickly. In light and in heavy blocks made with our concrete building block machines are it, local less than the measure given. This is to allow for the mortar joint.

**THE FOLLOWING ILLUSTRATIONS** show fourteen different designs of blocks which can be made on either size of the Wizard Building Block Machines, with the face plates and end doors for which we now have patterns, and whenever a new design becomes popular, we shall add it to our line. These illustrations show blocks with two cores, as made on the 16-inch machines. The blocks made on the 24-inch machines have three cores, otherwise their general appearance is the same as in these illustrations. Blocks made on the Wizard machines have about 33% per cent of air pockets or void space and 66% per cent concrete material, this being the standard of proportion for making one-half brick and two quarter blocks at the same time, as shown in the list of these different illustrations, can be furnished for either size of machine in any of the different designs. The regular outfit with each machine includes a set of face plates and end doors for making standard face blocks, there being a face plate for each plate and a face plate for half and quarter face blocks. You can order your machine fitted with sets of face plates and end doors for any two of the different designs in place of the two standard designs without extra charge, and you can order as many sets of face plates and end doors of the other designs as you wish, allowing our catalogue price for each additional set.



**OUR MACHINES MAKE THE BLOCKS FACE DOWN.** This is the only way in which a perfect block can be made, using fine material for the face and coarse material for the body of the block. You can make the face mixture as rich as you wish and the body mixture with the smallest amount of cement allowable, thus producing a high class beautifully faced block at the least possible cost. You can make blocks of any desired color, in the face mixture without wasting coloring matter in the body of the block, and with a perfect machine as the Wizard, in using a correct mixture and tamping it properly, you are assured of a perfectly made and perfectly finished block every time.

**FOUR-INCH COURSE BLOCK ATTACHMENTS.** While any of the different face designs in full height blocks (8 inches) can be used for half courses and while the water table face is most generally used for this purpose, it is frequently desirable to use blocks only 4 inches in height for belt and trimming courses. These 4-inch blocks can also be used in connection with such blocks to obtain a broken ashler effect in the wall. We can furnish 4-inch course block attachments with either Wizard or Buckeye building block machines. A 4-inch course block attachment consists of a face plate for making two whole blocks, a face plate for making two half and four quarter blocks, a pair of return end doors, four dividing pallets for making the half and quarter blocks, and two dividing pallets for the length of the blocks. As you will note we only furnish two dividing pallets with the attachment, but you will require as many dividing pallets as you wish to make moulds per day, and these should be ordered when you order the attachment; however, the same dividing pallets can be used with attachments for different designs of blocks. These attachments can be furnished only for blocks of the following designs: Plain face, rock face, panel face and tooled face. When ordered you must be careful to tell us which design of face you want and to allow our catalogue price for the attachment and for such extra dividing pallets as you see fit to order.

**THE SHAPE OF THE CORES** in blocks made with the Wizard Block Machines, as shown in this illustration, is radically different from that in general use. Most machines make blocks with square cornered cores, compelling the operator to tamp the mixture next to the face of the block before the cores are inserted in the mould, thus leaving a hard tamped parting line near the core line of the block which makes it weak and liable to crack or separate. This parting line and the square core corners are the causes which result in cracked blocks and only a very slight jar is required to crack the blocks under these circumstances. This allows you to lay the face material, then to crack the blocks under these circumstances. The cores of the Wizard blocks are elliptical. This allows you to lay the face material, then to crack the blocks under these circumstances. The cores of the Wizard blocks are elliptical. This allows you to lay the face material, then to crack the blocks under these circumstances. The cores of the Wizard blocks are elliptical. This allows you to lay the face material, then to crack the blocks under these circumstances.

**CIRCLE BLOCK ATTACHMENTS.** Circular bay windows, or small fronts or circular corners, require blocks having convex faces. We can furnish either Wizard or Buckeye building block machines with circular attachments for each different radius and face design. A circle block attachment consists of a face plate for making whole blocks and a pair of end doors with dividing pallets for the fractional blocks. When ordered be careful to tell us which design of face and which radius you want and to allow our catalogue price for the outfit.

**THE REGULAR OUTFIT** furnished with our Wizard Building Block Machines enables you to make standard plain face and standard rock face blocks, with core ends and return ends, whole blocks for return or inside corners, joint blocks and cante blocks. We make attachments and extras for these machines, which are not included in the price of the machine, but which can be ordered at the time the machine is ordered or at any other time, at the prices shown in our catalogue. These attachments and extras are as follows:

**SPECIAL FACE DESIGNS.** The regular outfit of our Wizard Building Block Machines includes the face plates and end doors for making whole, half and quarter blocks, with plain end, core ends and return ends, in the standard plain face and standard (medium) rock face designs, or your choice of any two of the designs illustrated on this page. If you wish any of the other designs or a shallow rock face or a heavy rock face be sure to state which design you want and to allow our catalogue price for the extra when you order. We list the face plates for making whole blocks, the face plates for making fractional blocks, and the return hand and left hand doors separately, so that you need order only such face plates and end doors as you wish; but for a complete set of face plates and end doors for any one design you would require one face plate for whole blocks, one face plate for half and quarter blocks, one return hand and one left hand end door. The plain end doors and core end doors furnished with the machine can be used in making blocks of any face design.

**BAY WINDOW BLOCK ATTACHMENTS.** Bay windows are generally made at an angle of 45 degrees and they can be made at any angle desired. This illustration shows how to lay up bay window blocks so as to break joints and make the bay as large or as small as you wish. We can furnish with either Wizard or Buckeye building block machines adjustable bay window block attachments which will make both inside and outside angle blocks. A bay window block attachment consists of a face plate having an adjustable end piece for forming the angle end of the block and, aside from making bay window blocks, the attachment can be used for making three-quarter blocks with square ends which will often be found very convenient. These attachments can be furnished only for blocks of the following designs: Plain face, rock face, panel face, tooled edge rock face, tooled face and cobblestone face. When ordering you must be careful to tell us which design of face you want and to allow our catalogue price for the attachment.

**GABLE BLOCKS,** such as illustrated above, can be made in any of the face designs shown on this page. When ordered you must be careful to tell us which design of face you want and to allow our catalogue price for the attachment.

**FOR DESCRIPTION OF WIZARD MACHINES AND PRICES OF MACHINES AND ATTACHMENTS SEE PAGES 576 AND 577.**

Figure 33. Variety of concrete building blocks manufactured by Sears, Roebuck and Company's concrete building block machines, as advertized in 1908 catalog (Sears, Roebuck and Company 1908:575).



HOME No. 109

**\$1,463<sup>00</sup>**  
 HOME No. 109

For \$1,463.00 we will furnish the material to build this nine-room home, consisting of all lumber, lath, shingles, finishing lumber, flooring, doors, windows, frames, trim, hardware, sash weights, pipe and gutter, and painting materials. We absolutely guarantee the material we furnish to be sufficient to build this house according to our plans and specifications.

An imposing, nine-room home, with bath, plenty of closet room, front and back stairs, and two porches, extending across the front and along practically one whole side. An especially pleasing design for a corner lot in town, and equally desirable for a farm residence, because of the number of bedrooms, and the back stairs, which eliminates the necessity of tracking through the front part of the house. A home in which you will be proud to live and entertain your friends.

**GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS**

Built on a brick foundation. Lattice around porch. Double first floors, with one floor of good inch lumber, over which is laid the finish floor. Side walls are sheathed with matched lumber and sheathing paper, over which is nailed the best bevel siding. All framing material the best quality of Yellow Pine. Extra Star & Star Red Cedar shingles. No. 1 lath. Excellent grade of hardware. All windows glazed with "A" quality clear glass. Painted two coats Coverall Brand paint outside, your choice of colors, wood filler and varnish for the interior. Each item specified is shown on the Bill furnished with order for material. You can refer to our Building Material Catalogue and read full description.

By allowing a fair price for labor, and the material that we do not furnish, this home can be built for about \$3,040.00.

**FIRST FLOOR**

Elegant Cobb front, door size 3x7 feet, glazed with bevel plate glass, leads into reception hall, lighted by single sash of tasteful leaded art glass, No. 3400. To the left a cased opening leads into the parlor, lighted by three large windows. From parlor a cased opening leads into the living room, which is also connected with dining room by cased opening. Dining room has large cottage window. Living room has two windows, and door forming side entrance. Kitchen has closet and pantry, stairs into basement and to second floor, rear door to the side porch. Highest grade Yellow Pine trim throughout. Ceilings, 9 feet high.

**SECOND FLOOR**

Four good-sized bed rooms and bath, all opening from the hall, each well lighted. Large closets in three bed rooms. Front stairs and front closet lighted by a pair of single sash. Highest grade Yellow Pine trim throughout. Ceilings, 8 feet 6 inches.

**BASEMENT**

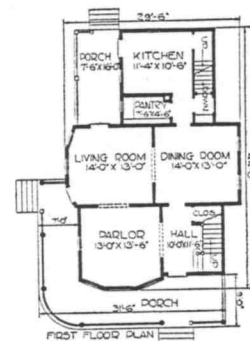
Excavated under entire house. Well lighted by cellar sash. Seven feet from floor to joists.

**Heating and Plumbing**

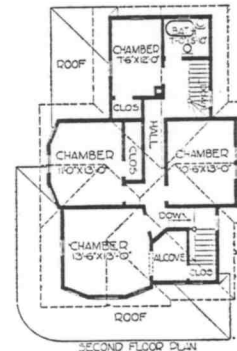
WRITE FOR DETAILED ESTIMATES

Warm air heating plant, complete.....	\$ 82.50
Steam heating plant, complete.....	130.00
Hot water heating plant, complete.....	217.00
Plumbing System, complete.....	33.50

The above heating estimates are figured for localities where the temperature does not go below zero. For lower temperatures the prices advance slightly.

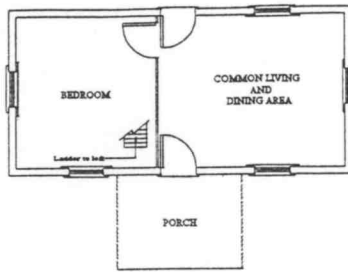


Size, exclusive of porches: Width, 29 feet 6 inches. Length, 44 feet.



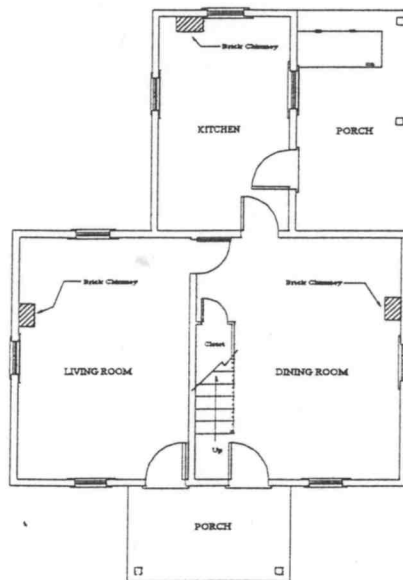
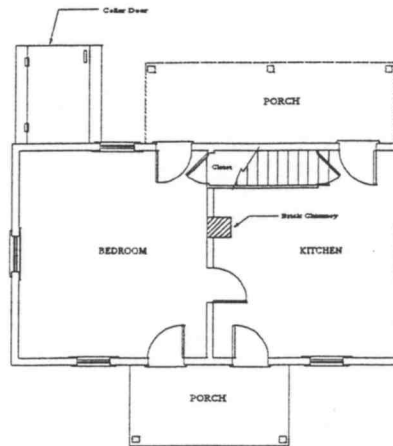
Read Our Free Plan Offer on Page Two

Figure 34. House plan similar to the Moskop House (MO-1996-2-S) as illustrated in the 1916 Montgomery Ward and Company's Book of Homes.



Daunn House, 1906  
Lower Income  
Railroad Laborer

Paul Sensel, 1908  
Moderate Income  
Carpenter



Charles Pflasterer, 1906  
Upper Income  
Flour Mill Engineer



Figure 35. Ground-floor floor plans of three dwellings documented in Valmeyer that display the variability in traditional housing in the community during the initial years of settlement (ca. 1905-1910).