

# COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF MENARD COUNTY

A CENTER OF LINCOLN'S ILLINOIS



Amended Comprehensive Plan  
Adopted as of XX Month 2016

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## **I. Commonly asked questions about a Comprehensive Plan.....**

### **1. What is a Comprehensive Plan?**

The comprehensive plan is the **only planning document** that considers the various facets that make up the community life—the use of land, natural resources, open space, recreation, transportation, farmland, and commercial and industrial development—and integrates them into one, long term plan for the county’s future.

### **2. What’s the time frame for a comprehensive plan? How far should we look into the future?**

Most comprehensive plans are designed to deal **with the long term—10 to 25 years** in the future. The central question for citizens and planners is always, “What can the people of our county accomplish in the coming decades?”

### **3. Why should we look so far into the future?**

Citizens, as well as their elected and appointed officials, need to look to the far horizon to envision **the great things that can be accomplished**, not merely for themselves and their children, but for their grandchildren, and their great grandchildren. The planning decisions that are made today will often last well into the next century and beyond. Good planning decisions lead to a good future.

### **4. How many counties and/or cities prepare comprehensive plans?**

Most counties and cities or villages of any size in Illinois or elsewhere have comprehensive plans. This planning movement began in the late 1920’s and early 1930’s and has continued to this day.

### **5. Can the comprehensive plan be used on a day-to-day basis, or, is this just pie in the sky?**

A well-considered comprehensive plan established goals, policies, and objectives for the community. It also sets forth a strategy for achieving these goals, policies, and objectives. **Three of the common instruments to achieve the goals, policies, and objectives of the comprehensive plan are the zoning ordinance, subdivision regulations, and the capital improvement plan.** When day to day decisions on zoning or proposed subdivisions or capital improvements are made on the basis of goals, policies and objectives of the comprehensive plan, the ideals in the plan are achieved—inch by inch, day by day, month by month, year by year—until suddenly the vision of the comprehensive plan is reality.

### **6. What can the plan achieve?**

**It’s a matter of imagination! Imagine, if you will, your great, great, great grandchildren. What would you want them to have that you now enjoy?** A small town rural atmosphere? Access to rivers and streams? An expansive wildlife habitat? An agricultural county? A great historical resource? But it doesn’t stop there. **What would you want them to enjoy about Menard County that you do not enjoy now?** A countywide bike trail? A riverfront along the

Sangamon that is “forever open, free and clear”? A carefully planned and executed collection of historic resources in Menard County? A transport system that links Menard County by rail to points elsewhere? The point is, the great ideas of a comprehensive plan are only limited, first, by the imagination of the people who design it. Then, putting the plan to work depends on the perseverance of the elected and appointed officials as well as the encouragement and support of citizens. A comprehensive plan should not be government imposing goals and policies on its people, instead a comprehensive plan should articulate the goals and policies that the people want their government to help them achieve.

## **II. Introduction to the Menard County Plan**

This plan is organized around four key sections. The first (Chapter III) deals with the demographics (population) and economics of Menard County. This section includes discussion of demographic trends and projections as well as a discussion of economic trends. Demographics and economics drive the nature of future development in the county and set the stage for consideration of all of the plan elements to follow.

The next major section (Chapter IV) is an atlas of Menard County. This atlas details both the natural environment of the county, and those features that were built by people. By examining both the natural and the built environment, a land use plan will be prepared that recognizes both the existing pattern of development as well as the opportunities and threats posed by the natural environment. As an example, the 100 year floodplain poses a real threat to any houses constructed therein. Similarly, the 100-year floodplain represents a real opportunity in preserving a corridor that will sustain plants and animals to be enjoyed by people for decades and decades. Thus, keeping housing out of the 100-year floodplain will protect people and their property and preserve rich soil for agricultural use while enhancing a habitat for plants and animals—everybody wins!

The third major section (Chapter V) deals with goals and policies. These goals and policies set the stage for putting the plan to work. They tell the world what it is that you are trying to accomplish. They set for the public interest in planning, zoning, and the regulation of subdivisions. In a phrase, they represent the county's aspirations for the future. They also represent the criteria that local officials will use in making land use decisions—on new subdivisions, zoning changes, plans for capital improvements, and virtually all programs that affect the future of the county. In effect the goals and policies of the comprehensive plan explain to citizens, special interest groups, developers, and judges, what it is that the county is trying to do. They establish the public interest--what the people of Menard County want to do to protect what they now have, and what the people of Menard County want to achieve in the future.

The final section (Chapter VI) deals with getting it done. The comprehensive plan is put to work by local officials through three main vehicles--the zoning ordinance, the regulation of the subdivision of land, and through capital improvements. In this section, the plan gets down to the particular details of how to protect what the people of the county want protected, and how to achieve what the people of the county want to do in the future. This concluding section will also deal with the question of how to keep the comprehensive plan up to date--how to keep the plan as a key guideline for decision-makers!

When the plan is adopted, the people of Menard County will have a document, the only one of its kind, which will explain its goals and aspirations for the future. What remains is to put the plan to work, by using it to make day to day decisions on zoning, subdivisions, and capital improvements as well as by using it to establish special programs, such as those designed to protect the outstanding historic resources of the county. Once in place, the plan represents a powerful idea for the future, an idea that is not easily abandoned.

### III. Socio-Economic Characteristics

#### A. Demographics

Menard County has experienced dramatic reversals in population growth and decline since the turn of the century. Early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and continuing until roughly the mid 1960's, the county experienced a steady decline in population as the number of farms decreased, employment declined, and people moved from Menard County to larger cities or to suburbs of metropolitan areas. The population of the county in 1900, as evidenced in Census Data, was 14,336, and it fell to 9,248 in 1960 before beginning to increase to 9,685 by 1970.

Since then population has continued to increase, except during the period 1980 to 1990 when it fell, slightly from 11,700 to 11,164 before rising by 1995 with an estimated population of 12,300. The 2000 population was 12,486; the 2010 population was 12,705 according to Census Data. It is perceived that these increases in population have had little to do with economic development in Menard County and has much more to do with the expansion of economic activity in the Springfield area.

#### B. Economics

Of special note in any discussion of the economy of Menard County is the role of agriculture. Agriculture is, by far, the longest lasting, and most significant economic resource of the county. In the last Census of Agriculture by the Bureau of the Census in 2012, the census takers showed 369 farms with 209 full owners, 114 part owners, and 46 tenants. The average per farm market value of agricultural products sold was \$229,138. The average farm size was 428 acres. By any standard, this makes agriculture the most significant industry in Menard County, and it suggests that efforts at economic development will most likely center in and around this industry. Aside from economic developments that are truly agricultural in character, a highly complementary industry to agriculture is tourism, including agri-tourism.

Paid Employees for Pay Period (Per U.S. Census Bureau's County Business Patterns)

Year 2000 – 1401

Year 2005 – 1514

Year 2010 – 1425

Total Business Establishments (Per U.S. Census Bureau's County Business Patterns)

Year 2000 – 247

Year 2005 – 242

Year 2010 – 225

Business Establishments by Sector & NAICS Code Description (Per U.S. Census Bureau's County Business Patterns)

Table I: Changes in Employment in Menard County, 2000-2010.

	2000	2005	2010
Employees*			
Contract Construction	148	170	100-249
Manufacturing	20-49	100-249	28
Transport/Public Util.	20-49	47	37
Wholesale	102	101	97
Retail	338	282	298
F.I.R.E.**	144	40-199	40-199
Service	244	319	327
Total Employees:	1401	1514	1425

\*Note: Columns do not add up to total employees since a few categories, not included here, contain only estimates of employees in order to protect the privacy of a few large employers. These estimated categories include agriculture and mining. Nonetheless, the other categories and total employment are correct.

\*\*F.I.R.E. stands for Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate.

Source: **County Business Patterns** by Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.



#### **IV. The Atlas of Menard County**

Menard County is located in central Illinois. Originally part of Sangamon County, Menard County was founded in 1839. Petersburg is the county seat. Athens and Greenview are the next largest towns.

The Sangamon River bisects the county. Topography ranges from almost level to rolling, near the Sangamon River. The county is fortunate to have many wooded areas and wetlands. Three Illinois Natural Areas and one Illinois Nature Preserve exist in the county. Two of these are relatively rare hill prairies. Much of the land is farmed, with corn and soybeans being the predominant crops. Wheat is also grown.

The major attraction in the county is Lincolns' New Salem State Historic Site. New Salem is a reconstruction of the village where Abraham Lincoln spent his early adulthood. Located two miles south of Petersburg, it is the most popular state historic site. It is on the National Register of Historic Sites, along with four other buildings in the county. Numerous other historic landmarks can be found in the Petersburg area and throughout the county.

This atlas contains information about the natural and built features of Menard County. In addition, a map of land cover and two composite maps are included. The first composite map of natural features identifies areas that have some limitations for future development. The second composite map of built features shows those areas that are already developed for some use such as towns and highways. These features will also have strong influences on new development.

Maps in the atlas were created with the ArcGIS computer software. This is a computer program which stores and manipulates spatially referenced information about an area.

It is very important to note that these maps are a reflection of the best available information. Much of the information is mapped at a very small scale and is subject to the limitations of the degree of accuracy of the underlying base map. Although the maps look precise, much of the information is highly generalized. Flooding, topography, potential for ground water contamination, soils, and the surficial geology are all examples of generalized information.

It is necessary to verify the actual conditions on any given site before making any final decisions. For example, the flood zones are not exact. To accurately determine the extent of flood hazard areas would require an estimate of the 100 year flood elevations and accurate topographic data.

Additional information and advice can be acquired from agencies listed in the atlas text. The resource notebook also contains more detailed information.

## Topography and Hydrology

The topography of an area is one of the most fundamental characteristics of the land and strongly influences soils, hydrology, land cover, and land use. Topographic maps are comprised of a series of lines, called contour lines, which designate the elevation of the land above sea level. Each contour line represents a specific elevation. The United States Geological Survey has developed topographic maps for Menard County at two scales--1:100,000 (1"= 8333.33') and 1:24,000 or (1'=2000'). The 1:24,000 maps shows the county at a more detailed scale. The 1:100,000 map, while having less detail, has the advantage of displaying the entire county on a single sheet.

In addition to understanding what the land surface looks like, topographic maps can be used to determine slope and surface hydrology. Awareness of these characteristics can protect erosion prone areas, preserve drainage, and reduce construction costs.

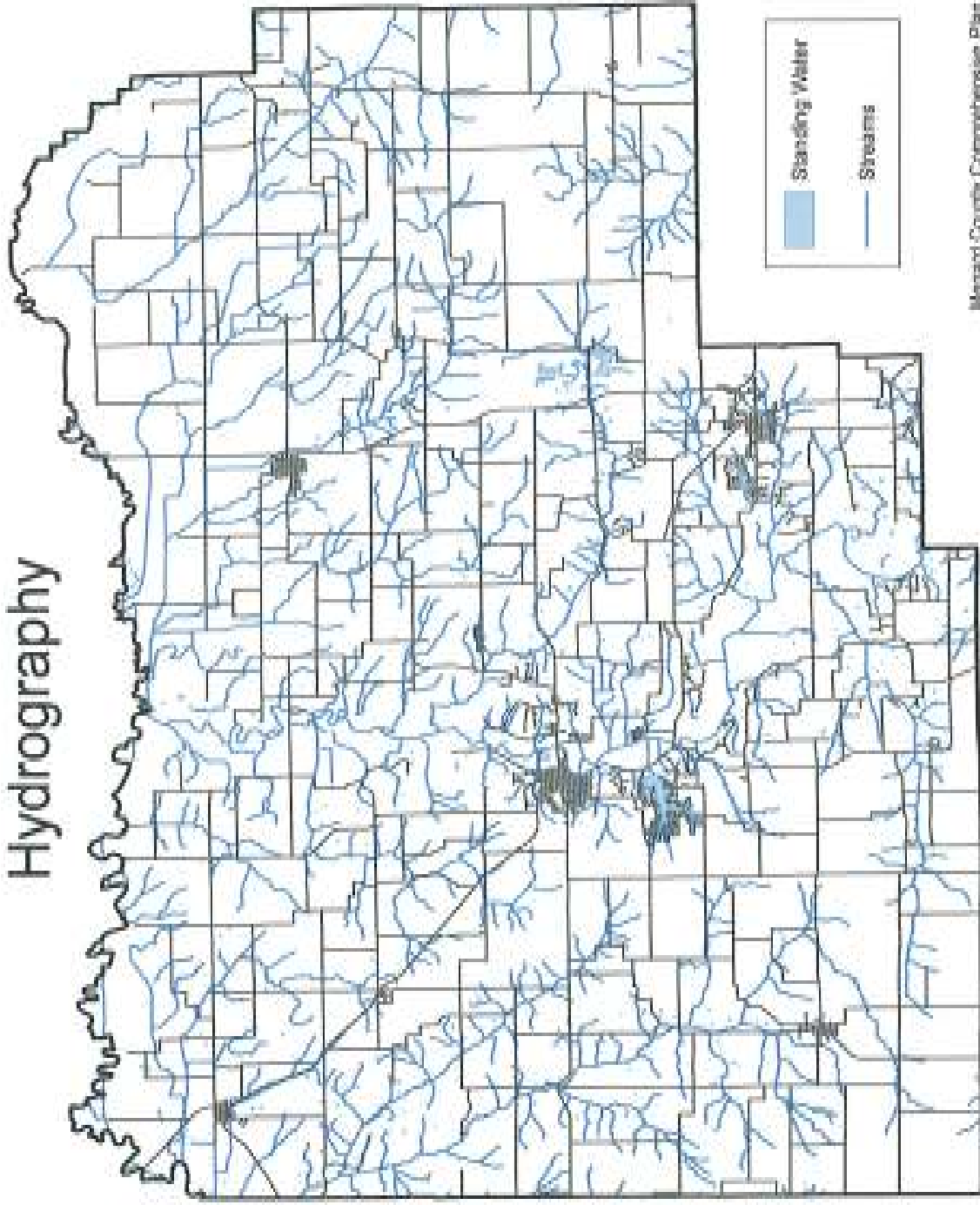
Contour lines can be used to determine the change in slope from one contour line to the next. The slope change, in percent, is found by dividing the vertical elevation change by the horizontal distance over which that elevation occurs. The characteristics of the various slope classes shown on the map are:

0.00 – 5%	flat-ideal for most outdoor uses
5.01 – 10%	gently rolling, suitable for many uses, will drain well
10.01 – 20%	rolling, too steep for many uses, risk of erosion but well drained
20.01% and greater	steep, too steep for most uses, expensive and environmentally unwise to develop

Topography is a major determinant in surface water flow. Ridge lines form drainage divides. Surface runoff flows off ridges to lower elevations. A watershed is an area, formed by drainage divides, which drains into a body of water. Menard County is within the drainage basin of the Sangamon River. The Sangamon River and Salt Creek are the major drainage tributaries.

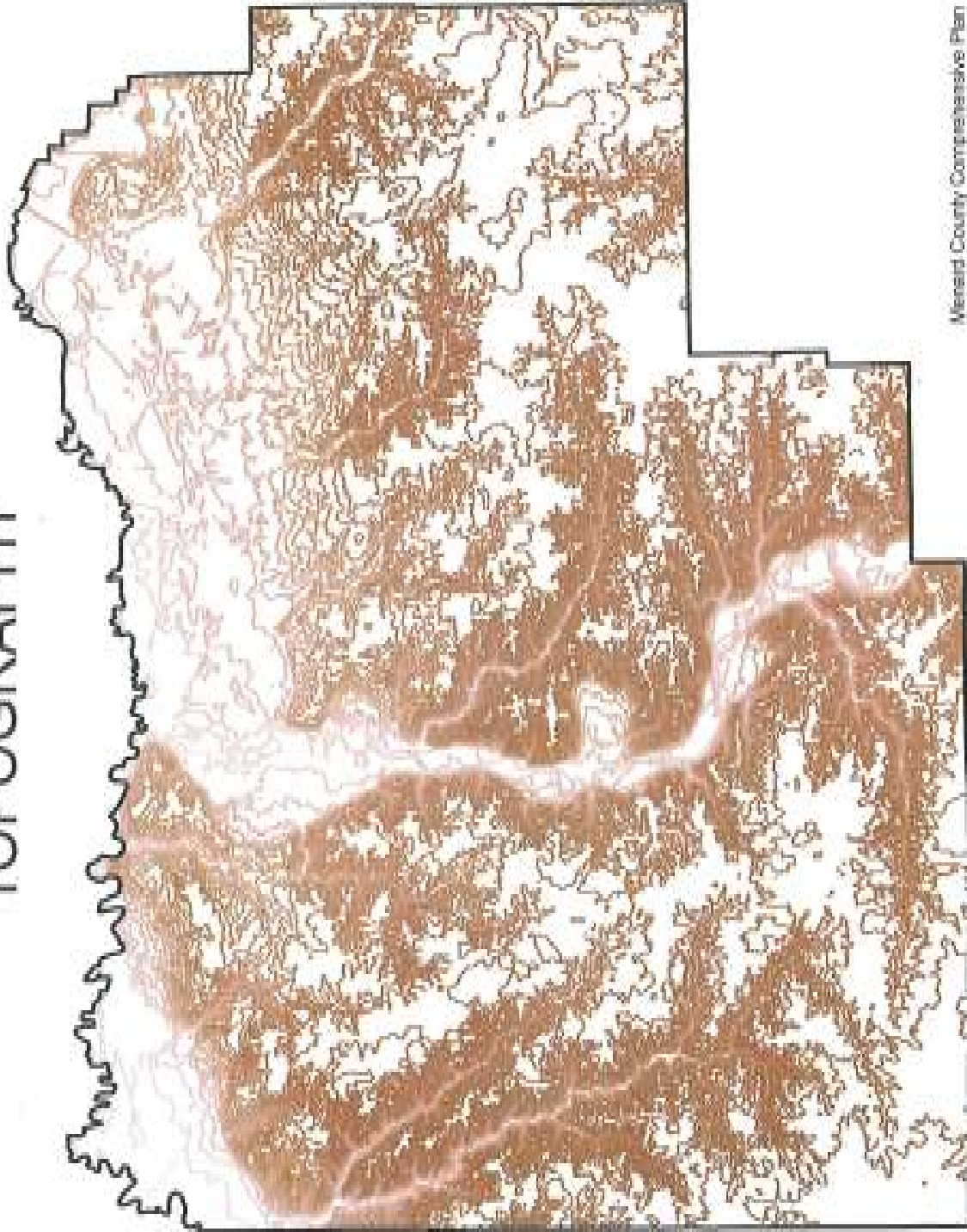
For further information, contact the U.S. Geological Survey at [www.usgs.gov](http://www.usgs.gov) or the Illinois Geological Survey at <http://il.water.usgs.gov>

# Hydrography



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# TOPOGRAPHY



Elevation (Feet)
460
470
480
490
500
510
520
530
540
550
560
570
580
590
600
610
620
630
640
650
660

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## **Flooding**

The floodplain is that area of land surrounding a waterway which is typically covered by channel overflow during periods of heavy precipitation. It is commonly divided into two areas—the floodway and the flood fringe. The floodway is the channel of the stream or river, plus adjacent floodplain areas that convey flood waters downstream at relatively high velocity. This area must be kept free from encroachment for the 100 year flood water to be carried without increases in flood height. The 100 year flood, or base flood is a flood having a one percent probability of occurring or being exceeded in any given year. The floodway fringe is the zone designated by the US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as the area in a floodplain that would likely be inundated by the 100 year flood.

The floodplain is characterized by alluvial soils deposited on the banks of the channel and floodplain. The rich depositional soil creates a valuable area for growing crops and for the preservation of natural vegetation and wildlife.

By determining the floodplain area and its frequency of inundation, you can plan appropriate activities and development. Failure to do so may endanger public safety and impose significant public costs for emergency services and reconstruction.

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) maps flood hazard areas. These areas are displayed on a map known as the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). The agency also makes subsidized flood insurance available, requires that properties have flood insurance to qualify for federally insured mortgages or mortgages from federally chartered institutions, and requires that local flood plain regulations be in force in order for property owners to obtain flood insurance.

FIRM maps identify areas where floodplain management regulations must be enforced and determine the rates policy holders will pay for flood insurance. These maps are approximations and are only as accurate as the base date on which they were drawn. The FIRM panels for much of Menard County show “unnumbered” A-Zones which indicates that the extent of flooding is not established by a detailed hydrological model and is only approximate.

The FIRM maps and reports for Menard County are based on the work of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

# Floodplain



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## **Generalized Soils**

Soils are an important component in the land use planning process. Characteristics such as texture and moisture capacity indicate how soils might perform under certain situations such as building construction. Information about permeability rates can help identify areas best suited for specific land uses such as septic fields and local roads. Since much of the land in Menard County is farmed, soil information can help identify prime farmland. Ignoring soil characteristics may result in the loss of good farmland or unnecessary engineering expenses.

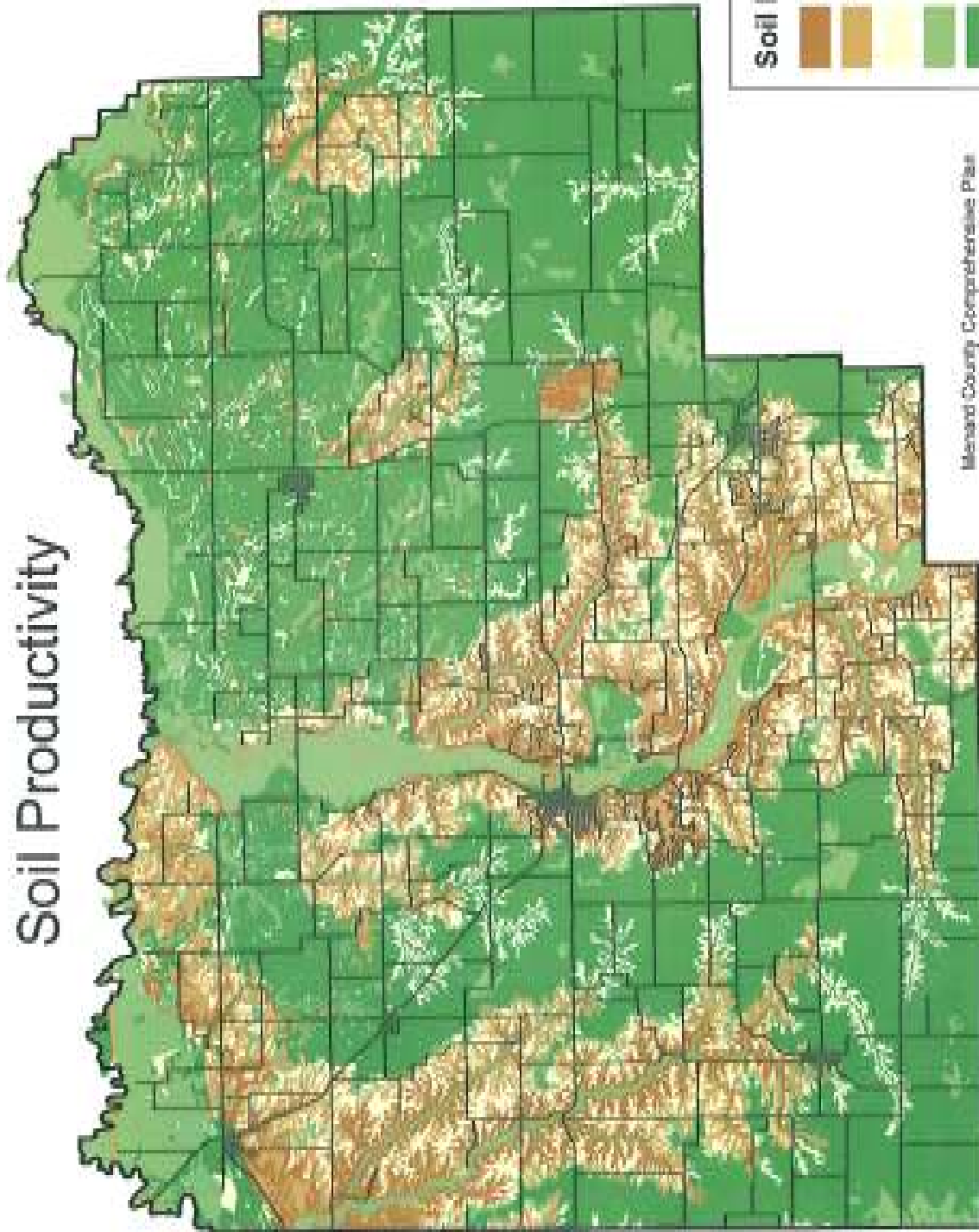
The Menard County Soil Survey (Report 2005) contains a detailed map of all soils in the county. It also contains recommendations for the use and management of the soils. The guidelines related primarily to agricultural concerns.

Additional information is available from the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). This information includes soil suitability for septic systems and building site development suitability.

Copies of the detailed soil survey map, the prime farmland map and information about soil suitability are in the resource notebook.

For additional information, contact the Illinois Department of Agriculture at [www.agr.state.il.us](http://www.agr.state.il.us) or at the Menard County Office.

# Soil Productivity



Soil PI	
39 - 82	Dark Brown
83 - 100	Light Brown
101 - 110	Yellow
111 - 120	Light Green
121 - 130	Dark Green

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## **Wetlands**

Wetlands include areas commonly known as wet meadows, bogs, marshes, swamps, shallow ponds and bottomland forests. These areas are periodically or permanently saturated with water or covered by shallow water. Most have water tolerant plants and poorly drained soils.

Wetlands recharge groundwater supplies, provide wildlife habitat, improve water quality, and serve as educational and aesthetic amenities. In floodplains, wetlands store excess water by gradually releasing it as the flood recedes, thus reducing flood damage.

Approximately 90% of Illinois' wetlands have been destroyed by conversion to agriculture or urban development. The National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) and the Illinois Wetland Inventory (IWI) have identified the state's wetlands. An on-site determination is necessary to precisely delineate the extent of any wetland.

The map indicates the wetlands found in Menard County. Many are located on the Sangamon River and its tributaries.

Other wetlands, ponds usually, are found scattered throughout the county. Wetlands found in Menard County include:

Ponds with aquatic beds and unconsolidated bottoms.

Wet Meadows and Shallow Marshes with emergent vegetation.

Forested Wetlands.

Scrub-Shrub Wetlands.

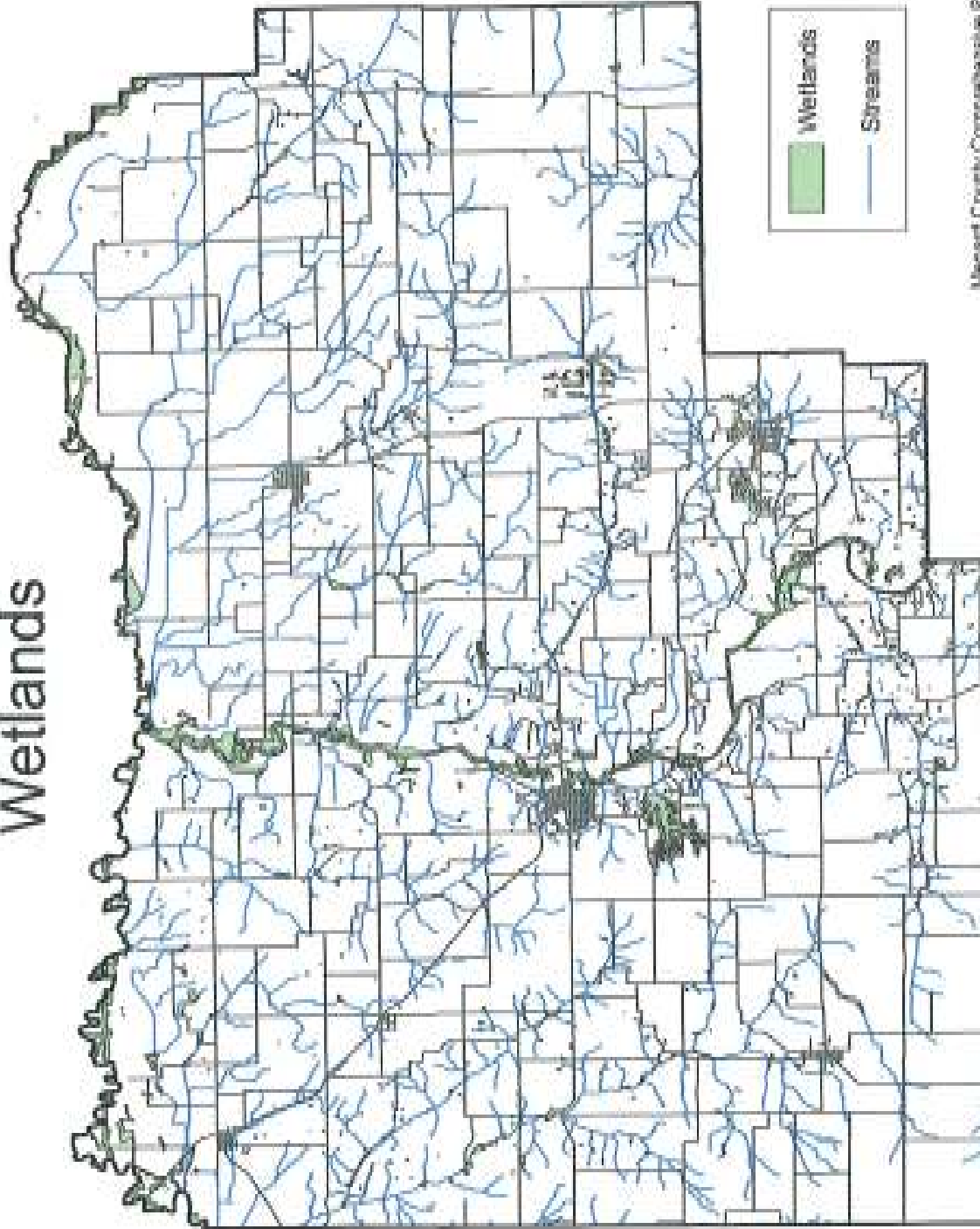
Riverine Wetlands (Rivers).

Lacustrine Wetlands (Lakes).

Description of wetland characteristics and the detailed NWI wetlands map for the county are contained in the Resources Notebook. Wetlands are protected under the Clean Water Act. Modifying a wetland area may require a permit from The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Failure to obtain a permit may result in fines and criminal charges.

For further information, contact the Illinois Department of Natural Resources at [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov) and/or The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service at [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov) or the Menard County office of that agency.

# Wetlands



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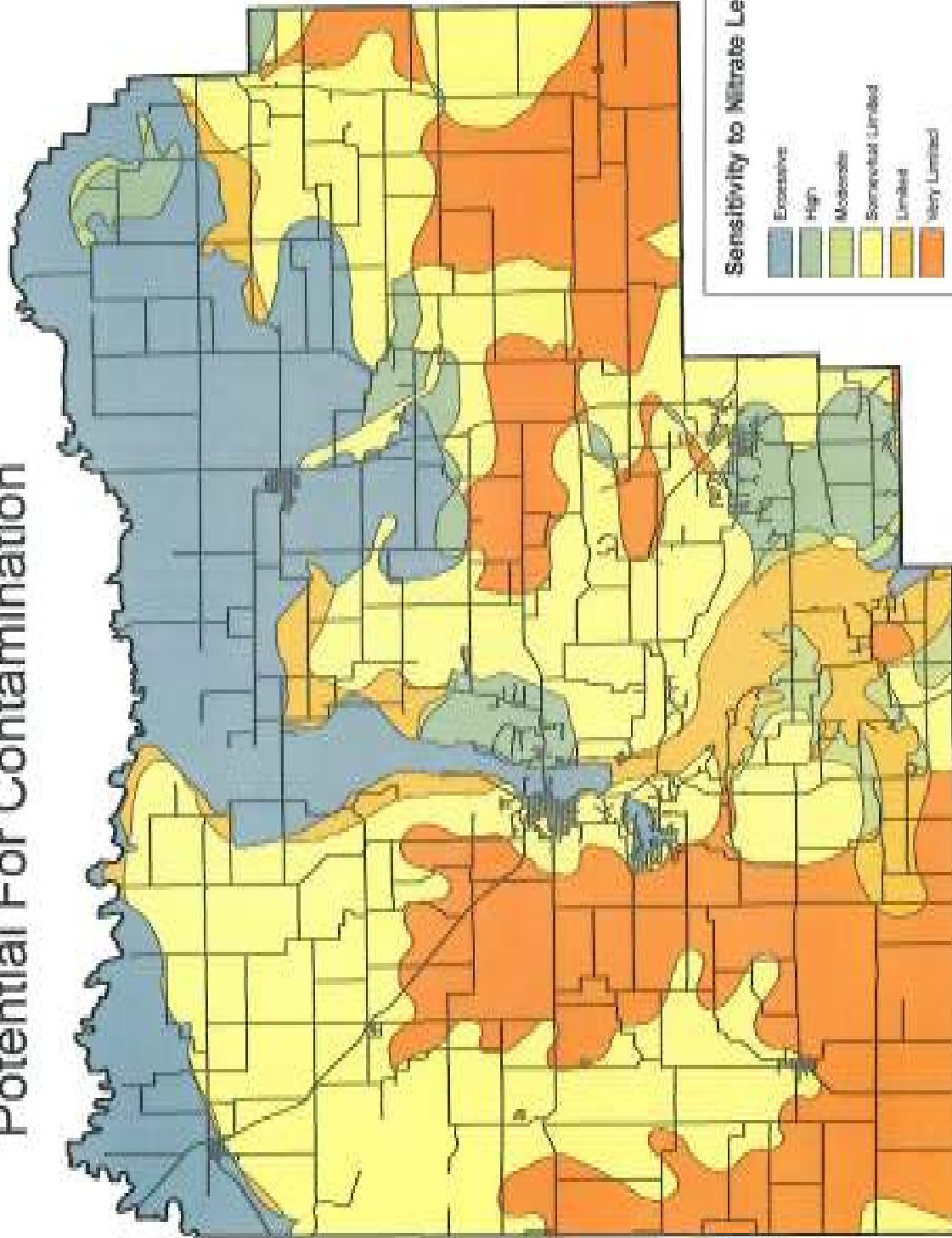
## **Potential Groundwater Contamination**

Groundwater is an important resource. It consists of the portion of rainfall that does not run off into streams and rivers and that does not transpire or evaporate from plants. This water percolates down through the soil until it reaches sand, gravel, or bedrock formations. Formations which yield usable amounts of groundwater are called aquifers. Groundwater is a source of drinking water and can also be used for power generation, industrial purposes, and irrigation.

In Menard County the primary threats to groundwater are from improperly applied or maintained petroleum based agricultural chemicals, fuel, and chemical storage, waste disposal and malfunctioning or poorly located septic systems. Areas of high and moderate potential for aquifer recharge shown on the map are the most susceptible to contamination.

For further information contact the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) at [www.epa.illinois.gov](http://www.epa.illinois.gov)

# Potential For Contamination



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## **Natural Areas and Nature Preserves**

Natural areas are sites which have retained much of their pre-settlement biological characteristics. These areas are designated in the Illinois Natural Area Inventory. Determination is done without regard to ownership of future site use. Sites may be in public or private ownership.

Nature preserves are legally protected natural areas which are set aside by the current land owner. This information is recorded on the deed and can be found at the county courthouse.

There are four natural areas in Menard County.

Baughner Hill Prairie: a loess hill prairie located north of Petersburg along the Sangamon River.

Sommer Property: a wet floodplain forest located along the Salt Creek at the far eastern edge of the county.

Oakford Spiderwort Site: located along the Illinois and Midland Railroad between Oakford and Atterberry.

Bobtown Hill Prairie: a loess prairie located along the Illinois and Midland Railroad between Oakford and Atterberry.

The location of the four natural areas is shown on the map. Only the Bobtown Hill Prairie is a designated nature preserve.

Detailed information on these sites can be found in the Resource Notebook. For additional information contact the Office of Illinois Nature Preserve Commission at <http://dnr.state.il.us/INPC/index.htm>

Please note that these sites are privately owned and may be visited only with the permission of the landowner.

# Natural Areas and Preserves



## **Surficial Geology, Mines and Quarries**

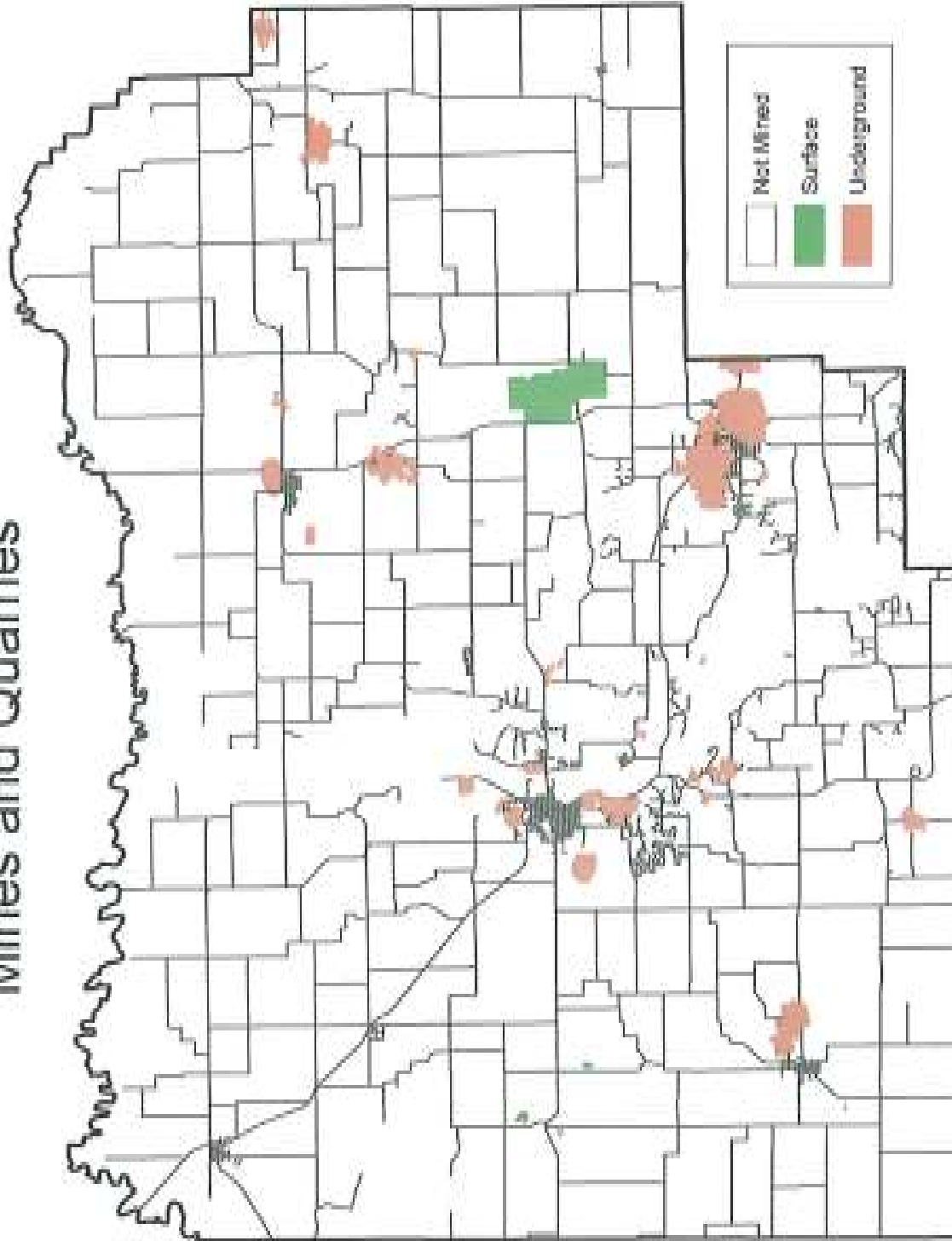
Mineral resources can contribute significantly to the economy of a region. Sand, clay and gravel left behind after the retreat of the glaciers covers most of the sedimentary rock that underlies the state. In certain areas, these glacial deposits provide gravel and sand usable for road and concrete. In addition, the area around Menard County contains deposits of carbonate rock resources. Quarries near Indian Point (north of Athens) produce limestone for roads, construction and agricultural purposes.

Extensive sand deposits exist in the Sangamon River bottoms. These occur mostly in the northwest part of the county. Other gravel deposits can be found in the eastern half of the county. In the past, clay was mined near Petersburg. Coal deposits can be found in the central part of the county. Although much coal was mined in the past, none is mined at the present because of the thickness of the overburden and the nature and extent of the coal.

The map indicates these sites.

For more information contact the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Mines and Minerals at [www.dnr.illinois.gov/mines/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/mines/Pages/default.aspx)

# Mines and Quarries



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## **Hazardous Storage Sites and Landfills**

Knowledge of the location and nature of landfills and hazardous waste storage sites can be used to guide future development plans.

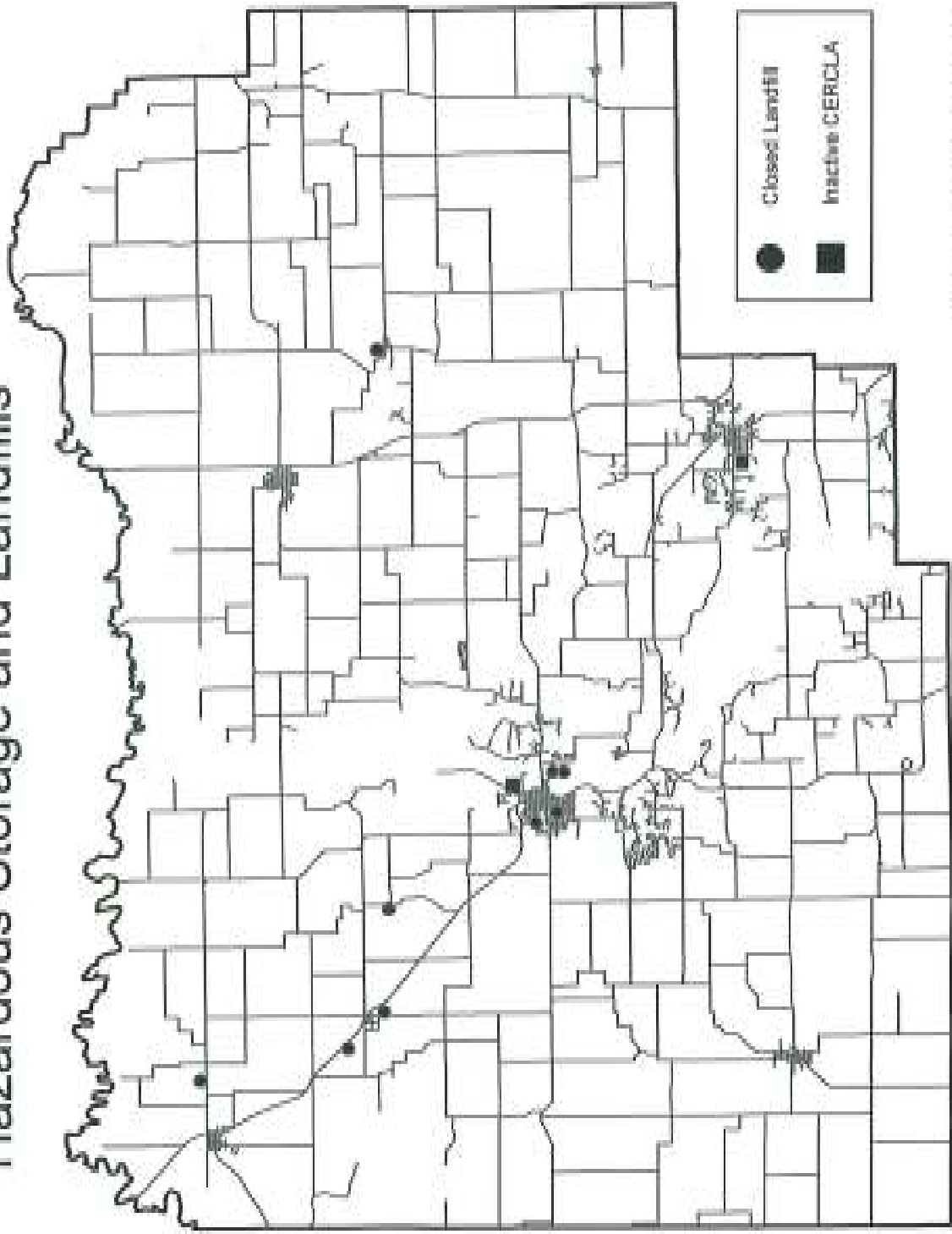
The state inventory shows two Menard County sites in the CERCLA archive. The CERCLA sites were formerly known as Superfund sites. Both the MAPCO, Inc. site in rural Athens and the Petersburg Public Wells #1 and #5 site have been removed from the active list.

Nine land based disposal sites exist in the county. All are considered non-hazardous. None of these sites are active. These include:

1. Petersburg Municipal Landfill #2: In Petersburg
2. First Church of Christ Landfill: In Petersburg
3. Powell's Landfill: In Sweetwater
4. Higginbotham's Landfill: In Oakford
5. Fillbright's Landfill: In Petersburg
6. Vaughn's Landfill: In Oakford
7. Armstrong's Landfill: In Oakford
8. Petersburg Municipal Landfill #1: In Petersburg
9. Kramer's Landfill: In Petersburg

These sites are depicted on the map. Detailed information is contained in the Resource Notebook. For more information contact the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) [www.epa.illinois.gov](http://www.epa.illinois.gov)

# Hazardous Storage and Landfills



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## **Transportation**

Existing roads are shown on the Menard County General Highway map produced by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). Generally, state routes serve as principal arterial roads while county roads are minor arterial roads. Local Road District roads serve as minor or local roads.

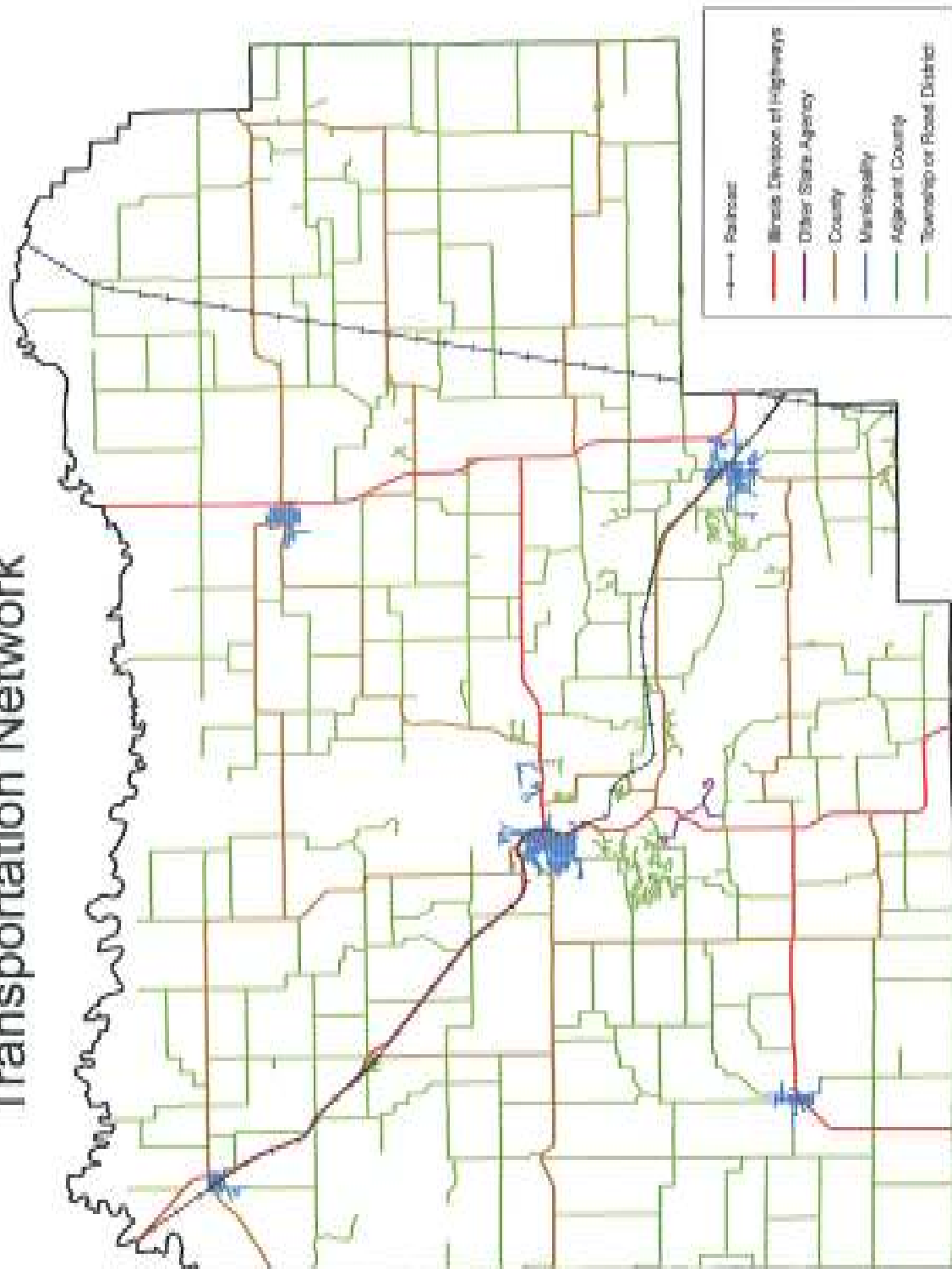
IL Route 29 provides access to Peoria on the north and Springfield on the south. IL Route 97 provides access to the northwest and southeast. Interstate 55 is just east of the county.

The Illinois and Midland owns the railroad line running southeast through Oakford and Petersburg. The Union Pacific operates the line in the eastern portion of the County. Amtrak connections are possible with Chicago, St. Louis, Peoria and Springfield.

The rail lines and the county highways are shown on this map. A county highway map and a copy of the IDOT Highway Program report are in the Resource Notebook.

For more information contact the IDOT Public Affairs Office at (217) 782-7820 or at [www.idot.illinois.gov](http://www.idot.illinois.gov)

# Transportation Network



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## Historic Sites

Knowledge of local history can enrich the lives of county residents. The county's historic sites also contribute to tourism and enhance the attractiveness of the county as a place to live and work.

The first known residents, Potawatomi Indians, lived near the bluffs of the Sangamon River. Founded in 1839, the county was named after Col. Pierre Menard. The county seat, Petersburg, was founded in 1821. Both Stephen Douglas and Abraham Lincoln practiced law here. New Salem, once a busy town, is now New Salem Village, the state's most popular historic site. Edgar Lee Masters often wrote about Menard County and his history of the Sangamon River is an important source of information on the County's history.

Five sites in Menard County are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These include:

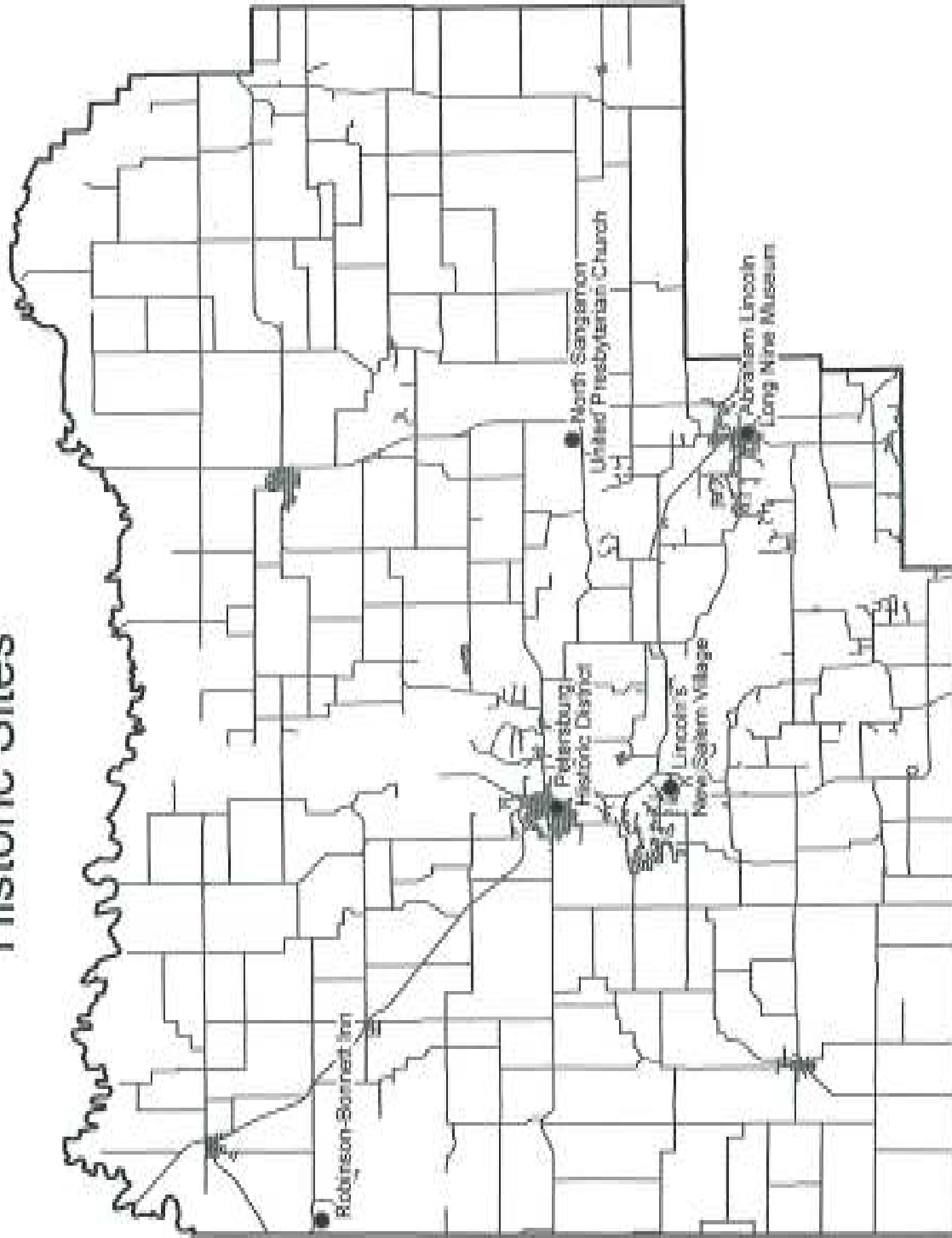
1. North Sangamon United Presbyterian Church: North of Athens
2. Robinson – Bonnett Inn: Southwest of Oakford
3. Petersburg Historic District: Downtown Petersburg
4. Lincoln's New Salem Village: South of Petersburg
5. Abraham Lincoln Long Nine Museum: Downtown Athens

These sites are shown on the map. It is important to note the National Register status does not offer much protection for historic sites. There are no restrictions on the use of these sites unless federal funds are involved. A county-wide historic preservation ordinance could provide greater protection.

In addition to the National Register sites, many other places in the county are significant. The Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey identified 60 historically significant sites and several other miscellaneous sites. The Resource Notebook contains information about the Historic Register sites, the programs and services of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and the Historic Landmarks. Selected poems and writings of Edgar Lee Masters, information about New Salem and an excerpt from the Champaign County Historic Site guidebook are included.

For more information, contact the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency at [www.illinois.gov/iHPA](http://www.illinois.gov/iHPA). Other important sources include the Historical Library at the Old State Capital, the Illinois State Library and the Illinois Historic Survey Library on the Urbana Campus of the University of Illinois.

# Historic Sites



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## Land Cover

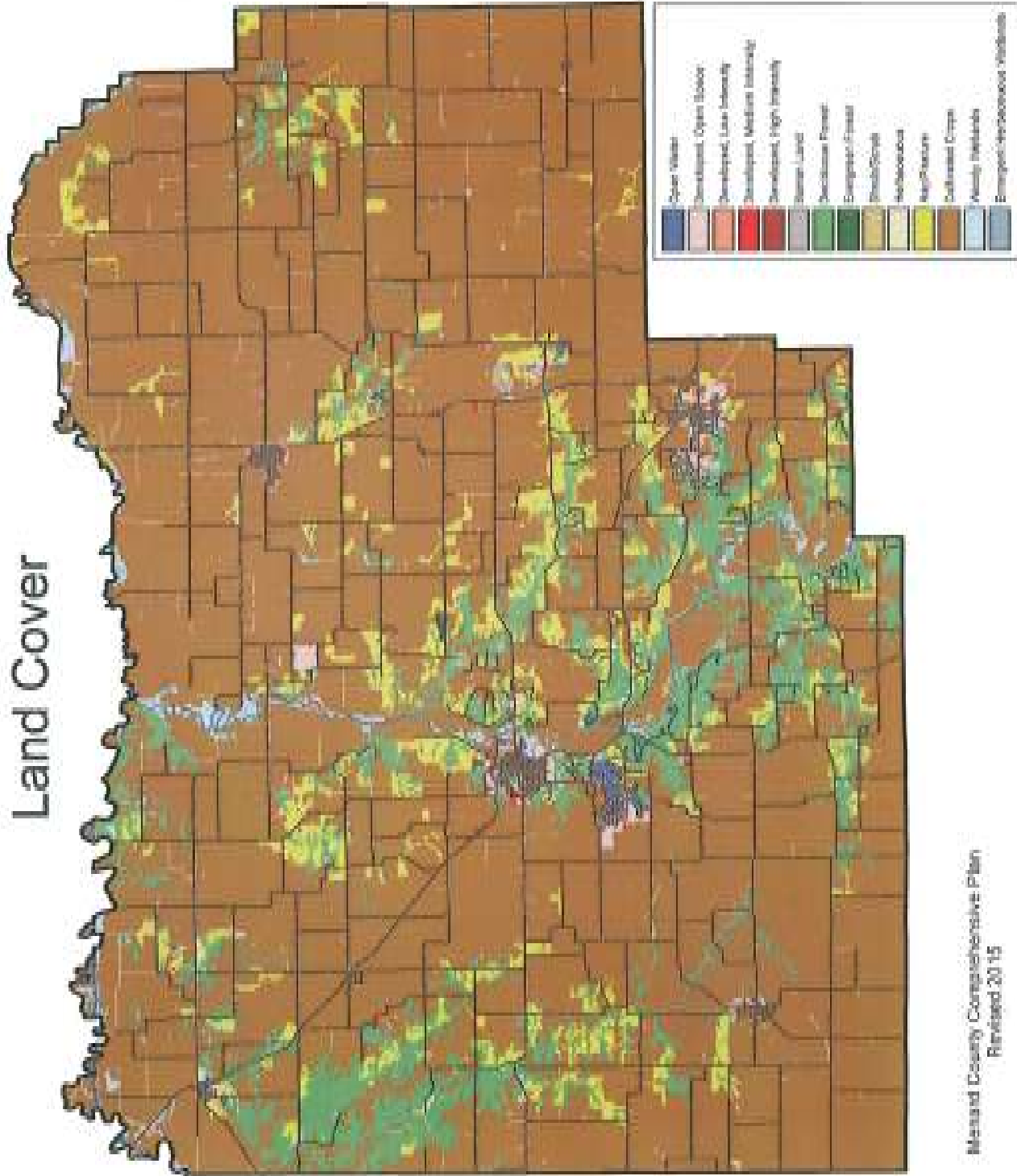
Land cover describes the surface characteristics of a given area and refers to the natural features and artificial structures present on the earth's surface. Land cover should not be confused with land use which describes the human activities irrespective of physical characteristics and emphasizes economic activities.

The Land Cover of Illinois Data Base was developed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Cover was measured through the use of satellite based remote sensing. A geographic information system was then used to create the land cover map. This map is available at the Menard County Zoning Office.

The following classes are displayed on the land cover map:

1. High Density: urban centers where all or most of the surface is comprised of impervious material such as roofs or pavement.
2. Medium Density: Residential areas.
3. Low Density: Subdivisions with a small amount of impervious material mixed with other covers such as grassland and woodland.
4. Major Highways
5. Active Railroads
6. Crop land: row crops or small grains
7. Orchards and Nurseries
8. Developed Open Space: Parks, residential lawns, golf courses, buffer strips
9. Rural Grasslands: Pastureland, buffer strips
10. Shrubs/Scrubs
11. Shallow Marsh/Wet Meadows, Wetlands
12. Herbaceous Wetlands
13. Forested Wetlands
14. Open Water
15. Deciduous Trees: closed canopy (Oaks, Maples, etc)
16. Coniferous Trees: Pines, Junipers, etc.
17. Barren Land

# Land Cover



Merand County Comprehensive Plan  
Revised 2015



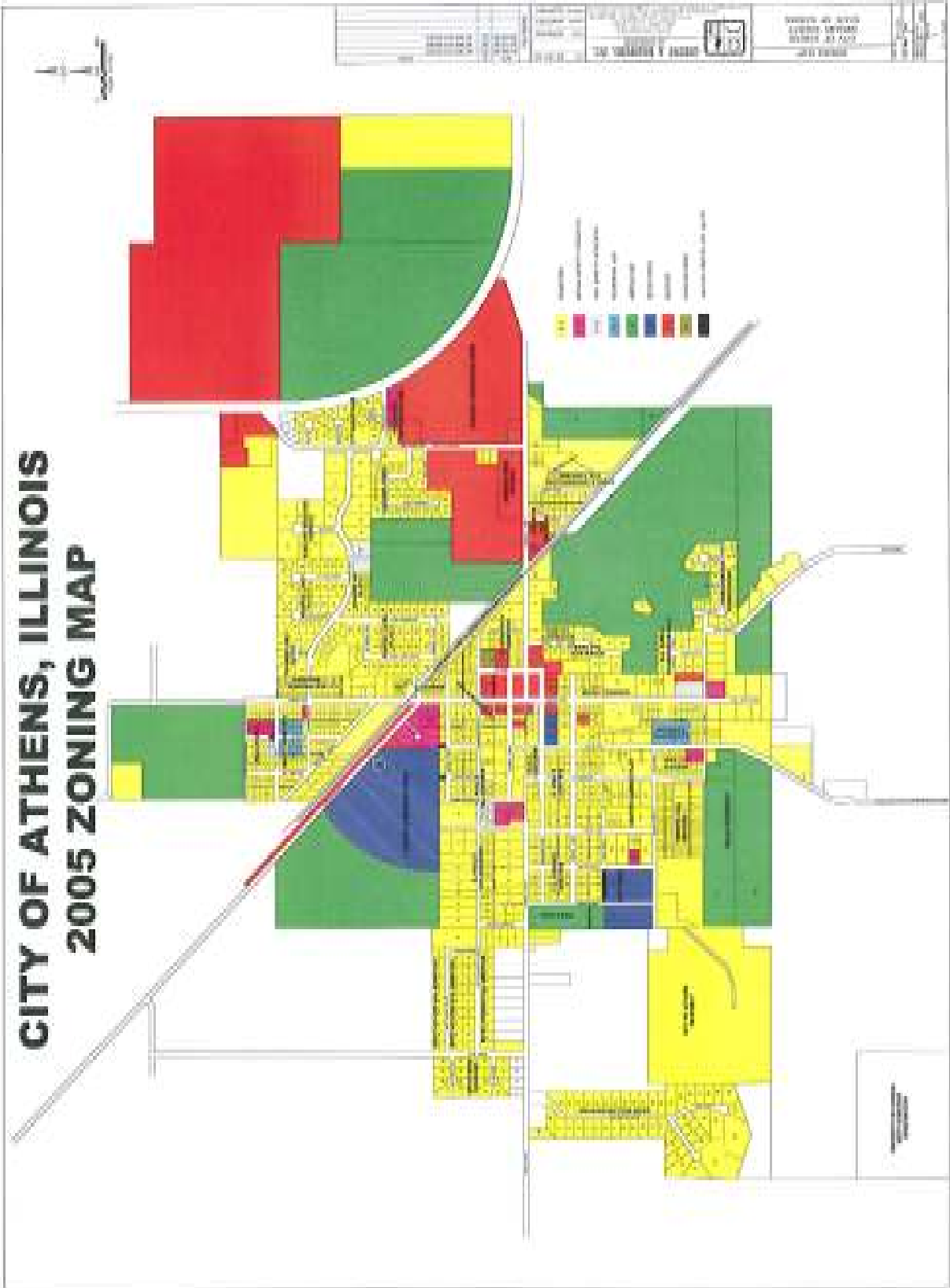
## Natural Features Composite

The Natural Features Composite Arc/Info Map identifies those areas which are least suitable for development. This map is available at the Menard County Zoning Office. If development is necessary, special care must be taken. These areas include:

1. Slopes exceeding 20%. Steeply sloping areas are more expensive to develop, prone to erosion and subsidence and can be dangerous if used for roads. In addition, areas with these slopes often occur near streams and rivers and may contain sensitive habitats.
2. 100-year floodplain: These are areas prone to flooding. Construction within the floodplain is more expensive because of elevated floor levels and higher insurance. The floodplain provides needed storage for floodwater and may contain sensitive habitats such as wetlands.
3. Wetlands: Construction in designated wetlands may require a permit. Wetlands typically have poorly drained, unstable soils making construction difficult and expensive. In addition, wetlands provide crucial wildlife habitat, store floodwater and are often visually attractive.
4. Nature Preserve: The one designated Menard County Nature Preserve, the Bobtown Hill Prairie is currently protected. Under present ownership, development is pre-empted.
5. Natural Areas: While not legally protected, these three areas represent important biological habitats. Considering their location along the Sangamon River and their overall small total acreage, it would be wise to allow them to remain undeveloped along with buffer areas to protect them from activities on adjacent sites.
6. Closed Canopy Deciduous Trees: Closed canopies of deciduous trees take decades to develop. Mature trees are an aesthetic amenity; provide habitat for wildlife and stabilize erodible soils. In Menard County, many areas with these trees occur along the Sangamon River and its tributaries. These areas, by their very location, are often flood prone and unsuitable for development. Even careful construction near mature trees can result in their death, sometimes as much as ten years after development.
7. Open Water: Streams, rivers, and ponds are valuable habitats. They also play an important role in drainage. Buffers between these and adjacent development may be necessary.
8. Coniferous Trees: Although not native, these areas still may provide some wildlife habitat areas.

It is important to remember that all sites need to be field checked prior to actual development. Other features such as soil characteristics and the potential for groundwater contamination also need to be considered.

# CITY OF ATHENS, ILLINOIS 2005 ZONING MAP





## **Built Features Composite**

The Built Features Composite Arc/Info Map identifies those areas which are already developed. This map is available at the Menard County Zoning Office. These areas include:

1. Major Highways: These corridors define the areas of greatest accessibility and desirability for commercial and industrial development.
2. Railroads: While ownership of both rail lines has changed, they are expected to remain in operation for the foreseeable future. These lines define potential sites for industries using or shipping bulk materials.
3. Powerlines: Some forms of development are not compatible with powerlines because of safety concerns. In developed areas, powerline easements will create open space corridors which may be usable for recreational or other purposes.
4. National Register of Historic Places: The five National Register sites in Menard County should be preserved. These sites are best appreciated where a historic context is maintained. This means the character of surrounding development is important. The five sites represent only a small portion of the historic sites in the County. Preservation of historic landmarks is also important. Future efforts should be directed toward achieving National Register recognition for as many of these sites as feasible and creating a county preservation ordinance.
5. Urban Grasslands: Due to the high costs of initial development, it is unlikely that parks and golf courses will be developed for some other use.
6. Urban Areas: These areas already possess infrastructure. However, development is fine grain with small lots and many owners. This makes it more difficult to assemble large blocks of land. There are, however, significant opportunities for infill development.
7. Mines and Quarries: These may create many negative side effects including dust, noise, and traffic. If residential uses are allowed in the vicinity of these there are potential conflicts. Once closed, some may be feasible for low intensity uses such as recreation and wildlife habitat.

Landfills and Hazardous Storage Sites: All of the Menard County sites store non-hazardous waste. These sites tend to have a blighting influence on adjacent uses. Existing operations, if properly managed, may avoid this problem. If closed and properly covered, the landfills in Menard County may be feasible for low-intensity use.

## **V. Goals and Policies**

### **A. Natural Resources**

#### **Goals:**

1. To encourage landowners to maintain or improve the natural resource qualities of the County's environmental corridors which are largely concentrated along water sources.
2. To identify those environmentally sensitive areas within the County that should be maintained in open space by public acquisition or voluntary efforts of property owners.
3. To identify and encourage the protection of unique natural or geologic resources.
4. To prevent development within areas where extreme hazards to such development exists – floodplains, poor soils, wetlands, steep slopes, etc.
5. To affirm that mineral resource deposits are a valuable natural resource, the preservation and timely utilization of which may benefit both the landowner and the public generally.
6. To work with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the USDA - FSA, the USDA – NRCS, the Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts and other governmental and private agencies to protect rare and endangered species.

#### **Policies**

##### **A. Surface and Subsurface Water Resources.**

1. To encourage landowners to maintain the quality and quantity of surface and subsurface water resources.
2. To encourage landowners to maintain the quality of wetlands and associated habitats for both flora and fauna.
3. To encourage landowners to maintain water filtration functions of wetlands.
4. To encourage landowners to maintain flood holding capacities of wetlands.
5. To encourage landowners to maintain the water transmission functions of wetlands.
6. To minimize health hazards to people and to prevent destruction of private property by limiting development in floodplains via the floodplain ordinance.
7. To encourage landowners to maintain the quality and functions of water recharge areas by limiting development in floodplains via the floodplain ordinance.
8. To encourage landowners to protect and maintain shoreland areas adjoining watercourses so as to maintain water quality and wildlife habitats and enhance scenic quality via the floodplain ordinance.

9. To protect water quality in areas with substantial residential development where such development is dependent upon septic systems and wells via the Menard County Private Sewage Ordinance.

#### **B. Woodlands.**

1. To encourage landowners to protect and enhance quality of woodland resources.
2. To support the development of woodland resources – tree planting and selected cutting of softwood or diseased trees to enhance woodland areas.
3. To encourage landowners to maintain the soil erosion and sedimentation controls provided by woodland areas.
4. To encourage land owners to maintain woodlands as a noise barrier; especially during development.
5. To encourage landowners to maintain the flora and fauna provided by woodlands.
6. To encourage landowners to maintain the micro-climate functions of woodlands.
7. To encourage landowners to maintain the air filtration functions of woodlands.
8. To encourage landowners to maintain the water filtration function of woodlands.

#### **C. Steep Slope/Ridgelines.**

1. To encourage landowners to maintain the scenic qualities of steep slopes and ridgelines.
2. To encourage landowners to maintain or improve the soil erosion and sedimentation controls provided by steep slopes.
3. To encourage landowners to maintain wildlife habitats provided by steep slopes and associated resource areas.
4. To encourage landowners to maintain the quantity and quality of woodlands provided by steep slopes and associated resource areas.
5. To insure the proper functioning of waste disposal systems in steeply sloping areas.

#### **D. Soils, Runoff and Water Quality**

1. To maintain the quality of runoff as it occurs under natural conditions during and after development.
2. To maintain the quantity of runoff as it occurs under natural conditions during and after development.
3. To minimize sedimentation of wetlands, streams or other watercourses during development.

4. To maintain the quality of the soil resources in developing areas and to prevent erosion and sedimentation during construction periods and following development.
5. To maintain or improve the capability of soils to support vegetation that will fix soils in place, improve fertility and prevent erosion or excessive runoff during development.
6. To encourage landowners to protect the remaining parcels of high quality prairie remnants.

**E. Mineral Resources.**

1. To identify the location of mineral resource deposits and to protect them from premature urban development.
2. To encourage development of reclamation plans for all areas proposed for mineral resource development so as to maintain the environmental quality of the areas once the extraction is complete.
3. To minimize negative impacts of permitted mineral resource developments.
4. To prohibit mineral resource developments that endanger water resource quality.

## V. Goals and Policies

### B. Agriculture

#### Acknowledgement:

States' Right-To-Farm Statutes (Farm Nuisance Suit Act):

The purpose of this Act is to conserve, protect, and encourage the development and improvement of its agricultural land for the production of food and other agricultural products. It will do this by limiting the circumstances under which farming operations may be deemed to be a nuisance.

#### Goals:

1. To protect and maintain agriculture as a long term use of land while also providing for large lot residential development and providing for certain commercial uses so as to grow the economic base of the County.
2. To protect and maintain the future development of farm operations by protecting existing operations from incompatible uses.
3. To protect and expand the agricultural, as well as the County's, economic base.
4. To maintain and improve the quality of the agricultural soil resource.

#### Policies:

##### A. **Agriculture as a long term use of land in conjunction with allowance for large lot residential development and providing for certain commercial uses so as to grow the economic base of the County.**

1. To keep prime agricultural soils in districts zoned agricultural limited to
  - a. One (1) dwelling unit per thirty (30) acres on soils with a predominant soil productivity index of more than 110; or
  - b. One (1) dwelling unit upon three (3) acres or more, on soils with a predominant soil productivity index of 110 and lower, per 30 acres of common ownership.
2. To ensure that minimum one (1) acre lot size for such residential developments provided that the one (1) acre minimum lot size may be increased subject to septic standards of the Menard County Private Sewage Ordinance.
3. To provide for increased residential density on non-prime soils with soil productivity of 110 or less, or on other land which, because of their size, shape or cover are not best suited for agricultural use. On such lands there shall be one (1) dwelling unit for any parcel of three (3) acres or more, and one (1) additional dwelling unit for each thirty (30) acres thereafter. Minimum lot size shall be at least one (1) acre or more depending on required septic standards.
4. To encourage farmers/landowners to voluntarily form an "Agricultural Area Conservation and Protection District as provided for in Illinois Statutes Chapter 505, 5/2 to 5/20.1. This act



encourages farmers to place their land in such districts for a period of ten (10) years and renewed every eight (8) years thereafter. In return, this act place limitations on both local and state governments to enact ordinances or new taxes that would impair farm structures or farm practices.

**B. Protection of Farm Operations from Incompatible Uses.**

1. To acknowledge and recognize that agriculture is the primary and preferred land use along with large lot residential development and providing for certain commercial uses so as to grow the economic base of the County.
2. For new non-agricultural uses in the agricultural district, to maintain rates and volumes of runoff as they are under natural conditions.
3. For new non-agricultural uses in the agricultural district, to maintain rates and volumes of erosion to "T" values as specified by the Menard County Soil and Water Conservation District.
4. For new non-agricultural uses in the agricultural district, to maintain drainage patterns so as not to increase rates and/or volumes of runoff or erosion on nearby agricultural land.
5. For new non-agricultural uses in the agricultural district to be restricted from altering or utilizing any drainage tiles that would increase drainage flows on nearby farms or diminish carrying capacity.
6. To acknowledge that agricultural use requires fencing, the application of chemicals, spraying, long hours of operation, the creation of noise and the creation of odors that are not ordinarily present in or near residential developments but may be by choosing to reside in an area where agricultural activities are the primary use of land.

**C. Protection of the Agricultural, as well as County, Economic Base.**

1. To give high priority to agricultural industries, institutions and support services for continued economic development of the agricultural base while also providing for large lot residential development and providing for certain, other commercial uses so as to grow the economic base of the County.
2. To solicit new and diverse types of family farm operations and certain, other commercial uses for continued economic development.

**D. Protection of the Agricultural Soil Resource**

1. To consult with the Menard County Soil and Water Conservation District on all new non-farm developments, public or private, affecting agricultural soils.
2. To encourage control of non-agricultural runoff and erosion so as to reduce the negative effects on agricultural soils.

## V. Goals and Policies

### C. Housing and Parks

#### Goals

1. Provide for high quality residential development in well defined neighborhoods or, in the case of more agricultural areas, on large lots.
2. Encourage the provision of housing suitable to a variety of family sizes and income levels.
3. Promote quality in housing design.
4. Encourage residential development in already developing areas to facilitate the logical extension of public utilities and services and to avoid leap frog development.
5. Maintain the Menard County's small town character.
6. Improve the quality of existing residential areas.
7. Insure the location design and density of detached and attached residential development is consistent with the land use plan map and all other appropriate goals and policies of this plan.

#### Policies

1. Discourage the concentration of high density, multi-family apartments.
2. Encourage pedestrian accommodations in rural subdivisions.
3. Maintain the following densities for residential development and develop residential zoning districts consistent with the following descriptions and densities:
  - a. Residential Single Family Detached: One to three (1-3) dwelling units per acre with allowance for accessory dwelling space to accommodate, for example, care of elderly family member(s).
  - b. Multi-Family:
    1. Townhouse/Duplexes: Four to six (4-6) dwelling units per acre.
    2. Garden Apartments: Four to six (4-6) dwelling units per acre.
    3. Group Style (housing for elderly and/or disabled) 13-20 units per acre.
  - c. Rural and Agricultural Areas
    1. Rural Residential: One (1) dwelling unit per three plus (3+) acres.
    2. Agricultural Areas: One (1) dwelling unit per 30 acres on soils with a soil productivity index average above 110 and no less than 3 acres on soils with a soil productivity index average of 110 or less.

Note: A dwelling unit is defined as one residence.

4. Require all new developments to be connected to public water and sewer service or, if such a connection is not possible, to comply with all Menard County well and septic system regulation.
5. To develop open space/lot coverage ratios to insure sufficient open space areas in new residential development.
6. Encourage that new residential development is compatible with nearby existing housing in terms of its character, design and scale.
7. Encourage multi-family housing as a buffer between higher intensity commercial, industrial or high traffic areas and nearby single family housing.
8. Encourage innovative site design in new residential development that lowers the cost of housing while maintaining residential quality.
9. Develop a housing code, if deemed necessary, to prevent deterioration of homes or neighborhoods in the county.
10. Discourage construction of residential developments on environmentally sensitive lands including wetlands, floodplains, steeply sloping areas, or on soils characterized by high water tables.
11. To encourage landowners to protect stands of mature, healthy hardwood trees and incorporate these mature hardwoods into residential site design during development.
12. To encourage a landscape design plan for new residential subdivision and including the use of native plant materials.
13. Require, if deemed necessary, a traffic impact analysis for new large scale developments and require traffic impact fees as part of any agreement involving such development.
14. Buffer residential areas, both existing and proposed, from adjoining commercial, industrial or other high intensity uses.
15. Encourage a mix of housing types within large new residential developments.
16. Encourage landscaping and/or berms for any new commercial or industrial development that abuts a residential area.

## **Parks**

1. Develop a land/cash ordinance governing new residential developments that will require developers to contribute dollars or land to improve local parks.

## V. Goals and Policies

**D. Circulation** (Note: Circulation is defined as any means of transportation; pedestrian, bicycle, auto, train, air, boat, etc.)

### Goals:

1. To ensure that relevant township road districts and the Illinois Department of Transportation are fully aware of Menard county's transportation plans and policies.
2. To promote road improvements that are consistent with county-wide goals and policies.
3. To ensure that transportation needs of new subdivisions are met in a safe, healthy and attractive manner.
4. To identify and protect scenic roads within the county.
5. To encourage the development of transportation services for those who by virtue of age, disability or income are unable to drive.
6. To encourage forms of transportation that retain the county's small town atmosphere, protect the quality of air and water and enhance the agricultural economic base of the area.

### Policies:

1. To ensure that relevant agencies of counties and townships as well as the Illinois Department of Transportation are fully informed of Menard County's transportation and land use policies so that these policies are taken into account as decision are made.
2. To ensure that transportation plans and improvements proposed by townships, counties or the Illinois Department of Transportation are consistent with adopted county policies as expressed in the Comprehensive Plan.
3. To orient truck traffic away from high-density residential areas or other sensitive land uses such as schools.
4. To identify as:
  - a. Principal Arterials: Routes: 97, 29 and 123, the Athens Blacktop and all other state routes.
  - b. Minor Arterials: Middletown Blacktop Avenue, Newmansville Avenue, West Oakford Avenue, East Oakford Avenue, Five Points Street, Curtis Blacktop Road, and all other county highway department maintained roads.
5. To ensure that new residential subdivisions or planned unit developments located along the principal arterials are serviced by interior streets rather than by direct access to the arterials.
6. To encourage or ensure that homes in new residential subdivision are oriented away from principal arterials and oriented toward interior streets.

7. To review the standards set in the subdivision regulations for right-of-way, pavement widths, curbs, gutters, sidewalks and construction standards for new roads to insure the standards are commensurate with county needs.
8. To seek the assistance of the Illinois Department of Transportation in the study of safety problems and the solution to those problems along the Athens Blacktop Road.
9. To establish a 100 foot right-of-way along the principal arterials.
10. To identify, develop plans to protect and encourage the voluntary protection of scenic views along the following roads: Boy Scout Trail, Rock Creek Avenue, Gudgel Avenue, Cape Horn Hill, and the Altig Bridge Road.
11. Require a 100 foot building line setback for new residential developments proposed along-arterials.
12. To develop a policy on street names in the County so as to maintain the connection between newly developing areas and the County's historic past.
13. To require new developments to pay for their fair share of transportation improvements that are necessary due to those new developments.
14. To minimize road cuts along the principal arterials so as to maintain traffic flows and to reduce traffic hazards to pedestrians and vehicles alike.
15. To require new residential subdivisions to provide for safe and efficient movement of pedestrians and traffic within the new development and connecting the new development to adjoining areas.
16. To require new residential subdivisions to provide logical extensions of existing or planned streets.

## **V. Goals and Policies**

### **E. Commerce**

#### **Goals**

1. To increase the level of retail activity in Menard County so as to provide necessary retail services to County residents.
2. To locate all commercial activity so that it is economically feasible to operate a business and to provide goods and services in a convenient, safe and attractive manner.
3. To encourage commercial and industrial activity consistent with Menard County as a center of Lincoln's Illinois.

#### **Policies**

1. To emphasize the continued development or expansion of existing commercial areas rather than new commercial areas while recognizing the County's economic base may be served by location of businesses in a variety of areas.
2. To permit a variety of home-based businesses or occupations provided such businesses or occupations are compatible with adjoining uses and zones and provided such businesses or occupations do not significantly change the character of the neighborhood.
3. To encourage clustering of commercial uses in planned shopping center or downtown areas in order to maximize consumer safety and convenience, maintain traffic safety and enhance the economics viability of commercial sites.
4. To permit expansion of agriculturally related commercial developments, a variety of home-based businesses and occupations and certain, other commercial uses into primarily agricultural areas.
5. To discourage development of uncoordinated strip commercial areas and spot commercial zones along streets and highways so as to minimize traffic hazards to people and property and to avoid conflicts with adjoining uses.
6. To encourage cooperative off-street parking in commercial areas and minimize access points to major arterials so as to reduce hazards to traffic and pedestrians alike.
7. To encourage new commercial developments to provide vegetative buffers and/or screens between such commercial developments and adjoining agricultural or residential areas.
8. To minimize the number of commercial roads out along major arterials so as to minimize traffic hazards.
9. Encourage the development of design standards for new commercial activities so as to preserve the small town character of the county.
10. Encourage the county's villages to develop downtown improvement programs.

11. Promote the use of historic or unique structures as centers for commercial activity.
12. Promote the development of commercial recreation activities that center on the County's high quality natural resources.
13. Encourage the county's villages to establish a consistent architectural theme emphasizing the village's small town rural character for commercial building in the villages.

## **Industry**

1. Promote the development of light, non-polluting industry.
2. Encourage a landscape buffer and/or screening between industrial uses and any adjoining commercial or residential use.
3. Recognize and promote the development of agriculture as Menard County's oldest and historically most stable industry.
4. To foster the promotion and development of locally owned and operated industry.
5. To minimize strip industrial development or spot industrial zoning in the County.
6. To locate new industrial areas where direct access can be provided to railroads or major arterials and where such areas are separated from nearby residential or educational uses.

## **V. Goals and Policies**

### **F. Historic Resources**

#### **Goals:**

1. To protect the high quality of the county's historic resources.
2. To utilize the high quality of the county's historic resources as a basis for additional economic development.
3. To increase local awareness of the high quality of the county's historic resources.

#### **Policies**

1. To publish the Inventory of Historic Landmarks in Menard County based upon the inventory prepared by the Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey in December 1973 as part of Menard County's Comprehensive Plan.
2. To form a countywide working group to:
  - a. Update the 1973 Inventory of Historic Landmarks.
  - b. Develop plans for the appropriate signage of historic sites.
  - c. Develop plans for guided or self-guided tours of historic sites.
  - d. Assess the quality of the 60 sites identified in the Inventory noted above as well as the quality of the 30 additional sites identified in the survey as "Miscellaneous" with an eye toward providing increased protection to these resources.
  - e. Develop historic themes from an evaluation of the Inventory (as updated in 2.a above) such as those sites relevant to Lincoln, those with important architectural features, those related to the American Indian and those pertaining to Edgar Lee Masters, etc.
  - f. Develop plans for the celebration of Menard County's history and historical sites as both an education and economic asset.
3. To request local Chambers of Commerce form a county wide committee on historical based tourism. Such a committee, as a beginning point, should solicit marketing data on the characteristics of those people visiting New Salem State Park each year from relevant state agencies. The marketing data would then be used to prepare economic strategies aimed at both capitalizing on the existing tourism based and expanding upon it.
4. To request local school superintendents to incorporate the living history of Menard County into the K-12 curriculum.
5. To establish over the long term a Menard County Historic Preservation Commission and charging such a commission with the protection and development of the County's historic resources.



## **VI. Implementation**

### **A. Land Use Plan**

The Land Use Plan is anchored in the dominant goals of recognizing farms and farm operations as the most likely and most common land use, enhancing the economic base through residential and commercial development while striving to protect the small town rural atmosphere and outstanding environmental resources of Menard County.

### **B. Zoning**

The purpose of zoning is to implement the comprehensive plan or to put the comprehensive plan to work. The best way to do that is to ensure that the goals and policies of the comprehensive plan are translated directly into the zoning ordinance where appropriate so that the goals and policies of the plan become the goals and policies of the ordinance. Thus as zoning decisions are made based on the plan's goals and policies, the zoning decisions themselves help achieve the plans goals and policies.

### **C. Subdivision Regulations**

The purpose of the subdivision regulations is also to implement the comprehensive plan. Relevant goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan must be placed directly into the subdivision regulations so that decisions on new subdivisions also help to implement the Comprehensive Plan.

### **D. Working Together**

The Planning Commission, the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Menard County Board of Commissioners are the key decision makers in planning, zoning and subdivision regulations. To ensure that the Comprehensive Plan, the Zoning Ordinance and the Subdivision Regulations perform effectively for the citizens of Menard County, it is most useful to hold a joint meeting of all three bodies at least once per year to review all matters pertaining to the Comprehensive Plan, the Zoning Ordinance and the Subdivision Regulations. If changes are called for, the Comprehensive Plan should be amended first, followed by the Zoning Ordinance and/or Subdivision Regulations. This will ensure consistency between the comprehensive plan and the land use regulations.

**Appendix A**

**Inventory of Historic Landmarks in Menard County**

Interim Report

Prepared by the Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey

A Division of the Illinois Historic Sites Survey

Conducted under the auspices of the Illinois Department of Conservation

Bob Kren  
Field Surveyor

December 1973

This list of historic landmarks is issued as an interim rather than a final report for several reasons. We realize that it is impossible to include every site within a county when the field survey is undertaken. We have therefore made provisions for the ultimate revision of this report.

The list from each county is a compilation of sites referred to us by people within the county and sites obtained through research by our field surveyors. We hope that those persons who see this list will be encouraged to report to us similar landmarks that are not listed. It is hoped that facts such as dates and the importance of the original owner will eventually be supplied by people within the county or through other research efforts.

The final report will be issued as part of the overall study of sites of aesthetic, technological, historical and archaeological interest being conducted by the Illinois Historic Sites Survey

The report also contains a list of all state and national parks and recreation sites in Menard County and a list of all state historical society markers. Major traces and trails are listed as well as Centennial Farms designated by the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE USE OF THIS REPORT**

### **SELECTION:**

This report contains a list of landmarks that are considered of special historical importance with the county. This list does not always include all of the sites examined by the field surveyors in the county.

### **ARRANGEMENT:**

The lists are organized by town or town vicinity.

### **INTERPRETATION:**

Reading across from left to right:

1. Map Number: The map number consists of three sections. The first section is the county abbreviation taken from the abbreviation list included in the report. The second section is the letter "H" which is the same for all sites in the state. The "H" connotes history and sets it apart from sites that are archaeological in nature. Archaeological sites are also numbered with a county abbreviation. The third section is the site number within the county. All sites are number consecutively.
2. Name of the landmark – in some cases additional information is provided in parenthesis below.
3. Street address or general location.
4. Significant date – in some cases this is the date of the landmark's historical importance or is the date of construction of the landmark.
5. Description of individuals connected with the landmarks or description of the landmark's importance.
6. NR denotes National Register as of the date of the interim report. IR denotes Illinois Register as the date of the interim report. All landmarks on the National Register are also on the Illinois Register. NL denotes National Historic Landmarks.

## Locating Structures:

If you wish to locate any listed landmark on the accompanying map, note its number and look for that number on the list.

These lists are intended as the first step in local preservation efforts. A glance at the list and map will quickly show the number and the distribution of important historical sites within the county. A cluster of sites may suggest the need for thinking in terms of historic districts. Those landmarks that are of special merit are marked with an asterisk which denotes the fact that they deserve immediate attention.

This is a division of the Illinois Historic Sites Survey which operates in cooperation with the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council under the auspices of the Illinois Department of Conservation. Funding is provided by the Illinois Department of Conservation, the National Park Service and the following foundations and individuals:

Burridge D. Butler Memorial Trust  
The Chicago Community Trust  
Field Foundation of Illinois  
The Forest Fund  
The Woods Charitable Fund, Inc.  
W. Clement Stone, Enterprises  
Mr. Gaylord Donnelly

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The Illinois Department of Conservation is directed by Anthony Dean.

## **Athens**

(MN-H-1)

Long Nine Building

Pre-1837

Lincoln and other “Long Nine Legislators were banqueted her August 3, 1837 to celebrate their success in moving the State Capitol from Vandalia to Springfield.

## **Athens Vicinity**

(MN-H-2)

Indian Point Presbyterian Church

Indian Point Road

1862

The congregation has functioned continuously since its founding on May 20, 1832

## **Atterberry Vicinity**

(MN-H-2)

Samuel Watkins House

SW1/4, Section 8, T18N, R7W

C1833

The horse, Peter McCue, founder of the Quarter Horse breed was bred and trained here.

## **Curtis Station Vicinity**

(MN-H-4)

William C. Smoot House

SE1/4, Section 32, T19N, R6W

Mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century

He raised stock and built the Hotel New Salem in Petersburg.

(MN-H-5)

Russell B. Godbey House

SW1/4, Section 20, T19N, R6W

1830-1839

He was a local farmer.

## **Greenview**

(MN-H-6)

Henry Wunsing House

Rt. 29, south edge of Greenview

1902

He was a local merchant.

(MN-H-7)

Marbold Bank

SW corner, Adams and Engle Streets

1877

## **Greenview Vicinity**

(MN-H-8)

John H. Marbold House

Rt. 29, South of Greenview

19<sup>th</sup> Century

He was a local banker.

## **Lincoln's New Salem Vicinity**

(MN-H-9)

Lincoln's New Salem Village

Route 97

19<sup>th</sup> Century

Lincoln lived here from 1831-1837. He began his career in law and politics.

(MN-H-10)

Benjamin F. Stephenson Log Cabin (Old Salem Chautauqua Grounds)

Athens Road

Second Chautauqua west of the Alleghenys. Cabin is a memorial to Mr. Stephenson.

(MN-H-11)

Horse Creek Covered Bridge

Rt. 97 south of New Salem Village

19<sup>th</sup> Century

It is a burr truss design.

(MN-H-12)

James Purkapile House

Rt. 97, south of New Salem Village

1868

Mr. Lincoln was a frequent visitor here.

(MN-H-13)

Mentor Graham Grave

Farmer's Point Cemetery

Rt. 97 south of New Salem Village

1800-1866

Graham was Lincoln's tutor at New Salem.

## **Oakford**

(MN-H-14)

Oakford Methodist Episcopal Church

Route 97

1836 and later additions

Constructed by Peter Cartwright

(MN-H-15)  
Oakford Bank  
1911

### **Oakford Vicinity**

(MN-H-16)  
Kay Watkins School  
(Hamblin Food Service)  
NE1/4, Section 8 T19N, R7W

(MN-H-17)  
John Bonnett Inn  
Robinson Mill (Bobtown)  
NW1/4 Section 27, T19N, R8W  
1840's  
This is the site of an early settlement and highway crossroads.

(MN-H-18)  
James Rutledge House  
SE1/4 Section 28, T19  
Pre 1835 p  
The residence of Ann Rutledge's father at the time of her death.

### **Petersburg**

(MN-H-19)  
Edgar Lee Masters' Grave  
Oakland Cemetery  
S. edge of Petersburg  
1868-1950  
He was a noted U.S. poet and novelist.

(MN-H-20)  
Ann Rutledge Grave  
Oakland Cemetery  
South edge of Petersburg  
1813-1835  
She is best remembered as Lincoln's legendary "first love".

(MN-H-21)  
Thompson Ware McNeely House  
316 W. Washington Street  
Petersburg  
1876  
He was a U.S. Congressman from Illinois, 1868-1872 and was a friend of William J. Bryan.

(MN-H-22)  
Hobart Hamilton House  
404 W. Washington Street

Petersburg  
1870's  
He established the first newspaper in Menard County.

(MN-H-23)  
Major Benjamin F. Stephenson House  
714 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Petersburg  
1870's  
The home was presented to Stephenson's widow by the GAR.

(MN-H-24)  
George A. and Ishom G. Davidson House  
SE corner of 7<sup>th</sup> and Lincoln Streets  
Petersburg  
1837  
He was among Petersburg's first merchants. The house is one of the oldest in Petersburg.

(MN-H-25)  
George Davidson House  
112 E. Lincoln  
Petersburg  
Pre 1840  
He was an early city merchant.

(MN-H-26)  
William S. House Conant (Cheery House)  
419 S. 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Petersburg  
1840's  
He was an area funeral director and founder of the Rose Hill Cemetery in 1858.

(MN-H-27)  
Elijah Gault House  
319 S. 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Petersburg  
1865  
Miller

(MN-H-28)  
Dr. James Whitley House  
405 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Petersburg  
1879  
He was a Civil War surgeon.

(MN-H-29)  
William White House  
208 S. 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Petersburg



1850's and later additions

He was a contractor. The living room is an original New Salem Log Cabin.

(MN-H-30)

Dr. Richard Bebett Home

106 E. Madison Street

Petersburg

1840's

Petersburg's first resident physician and inn owner.

(MN-H-31)

Petersburg Public Library

220 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street

Petersburg

1906

Carnegie Library

(MN-H-32)

Menard County Jail

SW corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Monroe Streets

Petersburg

1870

(MN-H-33)

Haltfield's Mill of Old Sangamon Mill

SE corner of 3rd and Sheridan Road

Petersburg

It was a flour mill in the late 1800's.

(MN-H-34)

Elijah Estep House

NE corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and Rutledge Streets

Petersburg

It was the first house built in Petersburg.

(MN-H-35)

Menard County Courthouse

102 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Street

Petersburg

1879

(MN-H-36)

Hotel New Salem

NE corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Douglas Streets

Petersburg

1879

(MN-H-37)

Frackleton Bank Building

NW corner of 7<sup>th</sup> and Jackson Streets

Petersburg  
1889  
It is the headquarters for the Menard County Historical Society.

(MN-H-38)  
Old Frackleton Bank Building  
113 W. Jackson Street  
Petersburg  
1844  
It was previously a general store. It housed the bank beginning in 1865.

(MN-H-39)  
Judge Harrison Room House  
NE corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and Jackson Streets  
Petersburg  
1836  
It originally stood on the west side of the square.

(MN-H-40)  
Edgar Lee Masters House  
NW corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and Jackson Streets  
Petersburg  
1870's  
This was Master's boyhood home.

(MN-H-41)  
Robert Frackleton House  
527 W. Jackson  
Petersburg  
1868  
He was a merchant and banker.

(MN-H-42)  
David S. Frackleton House  
527 W. Jackson  
Petersburg  
1868  
He was a merchant and banker.

(MN-H-43)  
Isaac White House  
521 W. Jackson Street  
Petersburg  
1860  
He was a merchant and pioneer settler of Petersburg.

(MN-H-44)  
Das Europa Haus  
NE corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and Taylor Streets  
Petersburg

It was an old church converted into apartments.

(MN-H-46)

Benjamin Montgomery House

623 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street

1865

He was a pioneer settler.

(MN-H-47)

Mentor Graham House

923 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street

Petersburg

1970

He was Lincoln's tutor at New Salem.

(MN-H-48)

Robert Bishop House

217 W. Sheridan Road

Petersburg

1845-1849

He was a local gunsmith.

(MN-H-49)

Edward Laning House

w. Sheridan Road

Petersburg

1875

He was an attorney and Illinois Legislator, 1868-1875.

(MN-H-50)

Diedrich Fisher House

503 Sheridan Road

Petersburg

1860-1870

He was a contractor for homes, bridges, railroad bridges and public buildings in Illinois, Texas and Colorado.

(MN-H-51)

John Bennett House

313 S. 9<sup>th</sup> Street

Petersburg

Mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century

He was a merchant, railroad director, and the first state legislator from the new County of Menard.

(MN-H-52)

Edward Laning House

NW corner of 9<sup>th</sup> and Taylor Streets

Petersburg

1902-1904

(MN-H-53)  
Gulf, Mobile and Ohio railroad Depot  
1125 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Petersburg  
1886

### **Petersburg Vicinity**

(MN-H-54)  
Edmunds Springs Bath House  
Rt 123 just east of the Sangamon River Bridge  
Petersburg  
C1885  
It was a "health resort" built around sulphur springs.

(MN-H-55)  
Dr. Benjamin F Stephenson's Grave  
Rose Hill Cemetery  
Rt. 123 (3/4 mile east of Petersburg)  
Petersburg  
He was the founder of the Grand Army of the Republic.

### **Tallula**

(MN-H-56)  
Tallula Hotel  
SW corner of Main and Ewing Streets  
Tallula

(MN-H-57)  
Scott Greene House  
Garden view Sheltered Home  
N. Ewing Street  
Tallula  
1891-1892  
He was a banker.

(MN-H-58)  
Tallula Baptist Church  
N. Ewing Street  
Tallula

(MN-H-59)  
Dr. John F. Wilson House  
N. Elm Street  
Tallula  
1884  
He was the first practicing physician in Tallula.

**Tice Vicinity**

(MN-H-60)

Va Noy Cabin and Blacksmith Shop

SW1/4, Section 27, T18N, R6W

It was the site of the first murder in Menard County.

## **Miscellaneous Sites**

1. Lenz Bottling Company-Petersburg
2. Antioch Church – Greenview
3. Huron, Illinois
4. Curtis Station – Curtis Road
5. Indian Mound – Oakford Vicinity
6. Henyen Mounds – Petersburg
7. “Corn” site
8. Water Works – Petersburg
9. John King
10. North Sangamon Academy – Indian Point Road
11. Nathaniel W. Branson House - Petersburg
12. C. & I. M. Depot - Petersburg
13. Circus Barn - Petersburg
14. Day Lake - Green Saw Mill
15. Methodist Church
16. Samuel Rogers Water and Grist Mill - Petersburg
17. Pillsbury Home - Petersburg
18. Indian Point Cemetery - Athens Vicinity
19. Lebanon Cemetery
20. Hornback Cemetery
21. Indian Campsite
22. McStee Sorghum Mill - Greenview
23. C. M. Blakely House - Petersburg
24. Samuel Hill House - Petersburg
25. Boone Talbott House - Petersburg
26. Lincoln Survey Site - Petersburg
27. Victorian House Antique Shop - Petersburg

## **Historical Markers**

1. Lincoln’s Store Partner – Rt. 97 South of New Salem State Park
2. Mentor Graham RT - 97 S. of New Salem State Park
3. Dr. Benjamin Franklin Stephenson - Rt. 123 E. of Petersburg

## **Recreation Areas**

1. New Salem State Park – State of Illinois