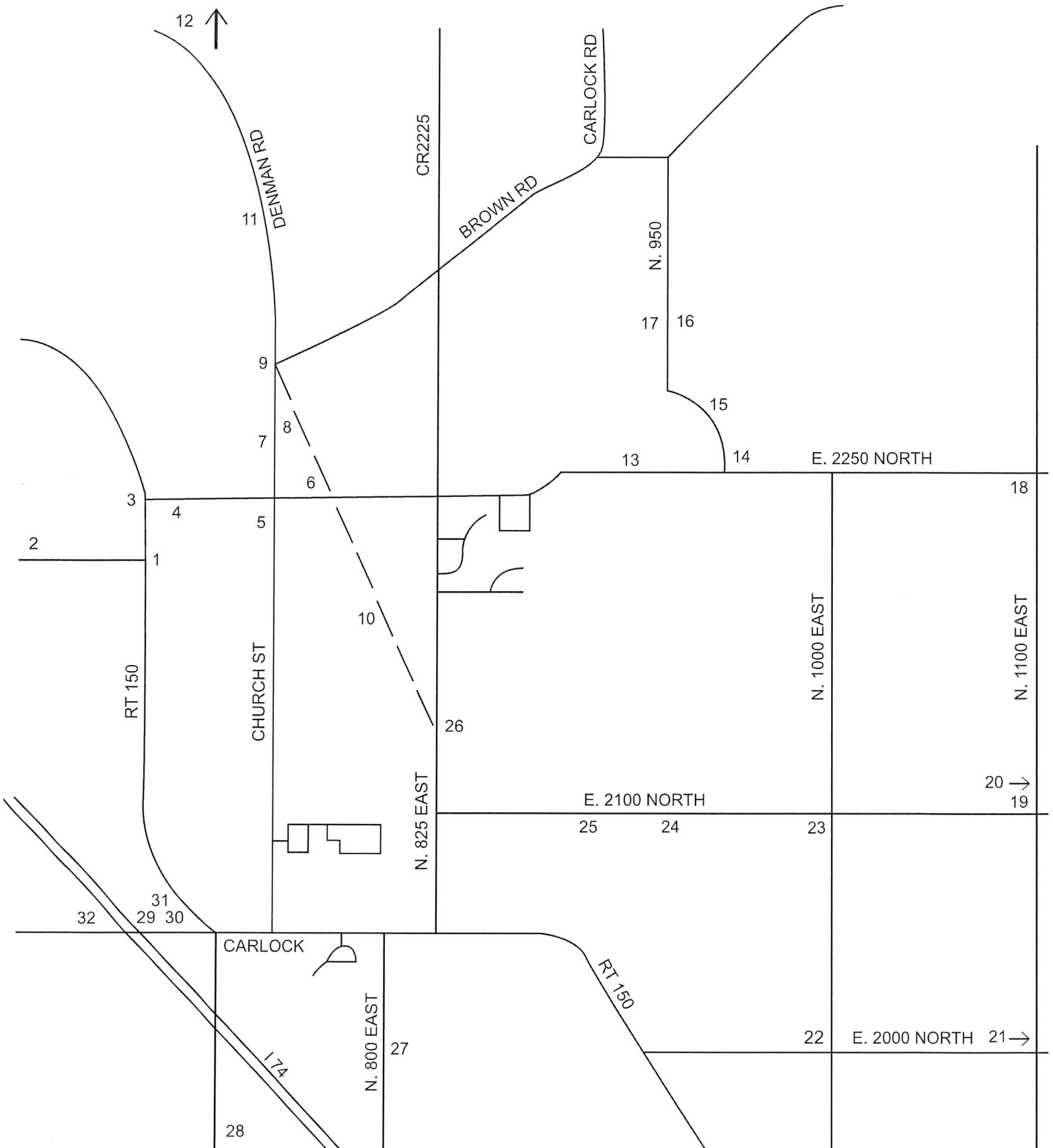


**A Self-Guided Tour
of the
Historic White Oak Grove Community**

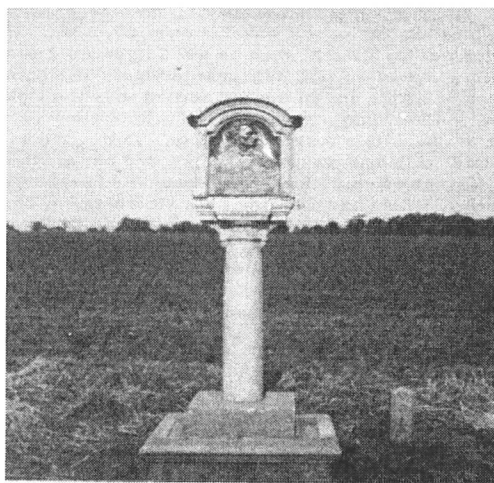
July 4, 2026

WHITE OAK GROVE TOUR MAP

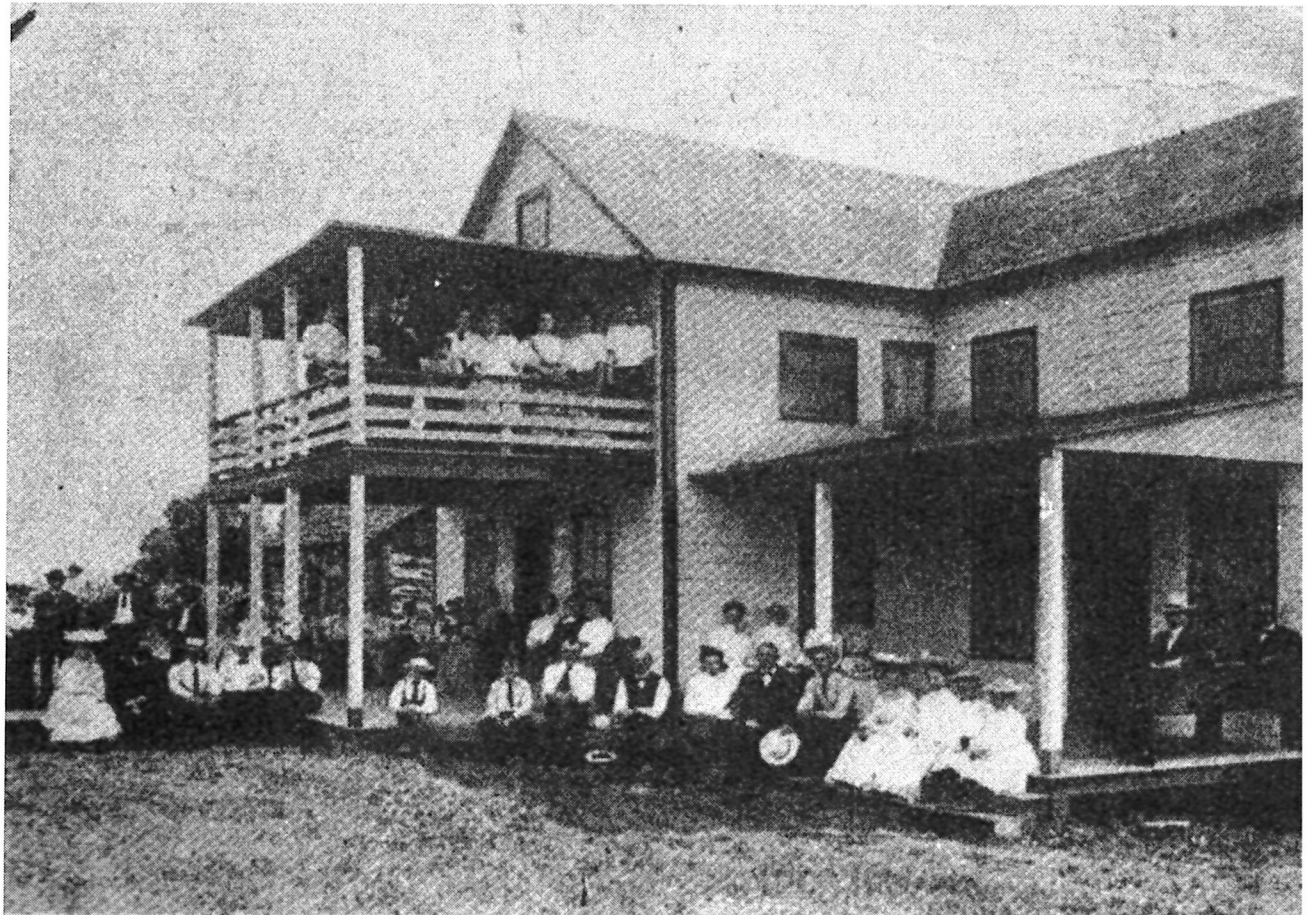


Tour Guide

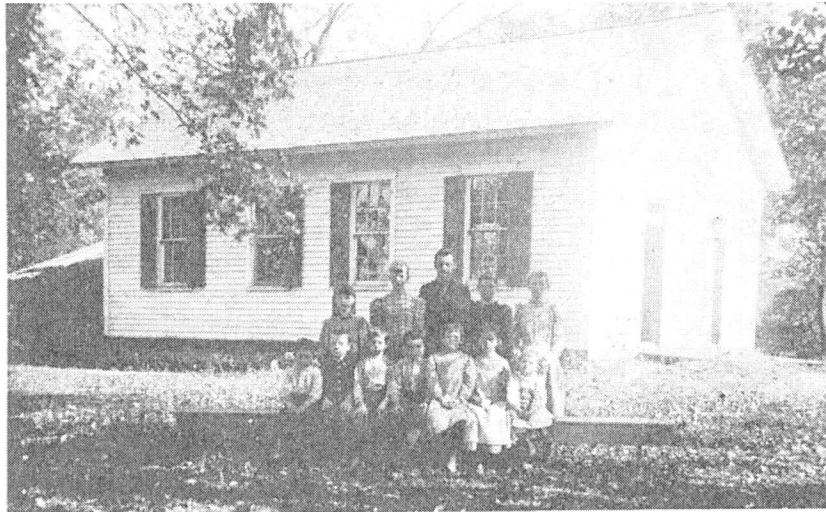
1. North Carlock School – This one-room schoolhouse stood on Abraham Carlock's first farm. Graduates of this school attended the Carlock Township High School.
2. Indian Point – Along the crest of the moraine ridge is the site of what the Carlock family described as an "Indian town" and a "celebrated Indian rendezvous site." The Carlock family referred to the campsite as Lookout Point. The campsite was used by the Kickapoo and Pottawatomie tribes.
3. Reuben Carlock Farmstead – The Reuben Carlock family moved to White Oak Grove from Dry Grove in 1832. The Carlock's farmhouse was a one-story bungalow-style house located near today's corn bins on the west side of Route 150. Reuben was the grandfather of John Carlock, one of the co-founders of the Village of Carlock. Reuben fought alongside his father in New Orleans in the War of 1812 and participated in the 1848 California Gold Rush.
4. Abraham Carlock Farmstead – The Abraham Carlock family moved to White Oak Grove from Dry Grove in 1831. Originally the Carlocks lived in a log cabin a few hundred yards north near the woods. The Carlock farmhouse was located where the current house stands and was similar in size. Abraham was widely known as the Old Democrat and was the father of Mahala Gaddis, one of the co-founders of the Village of Carlock.
5. Benson Farmstead – The Bensons moved to White Oak Grove from Blooming Grove in the early 1830's. The Bensons were Whigs and later Republicans. The Bensons were friendly neighbors of the Abraham and Reuben Carlock families who were staunch Jacksonian Democrats.
6. Lower White Oak Christian Church – The congregation was chartered in 1836. The first church was built in 1851 alongside the Old White Oak Trail. After the congregation moved to the new Village of Carlock in 1890, the original church building was then moved to Congerville where it stands today.
7. Lincoln Marker – The Illinois D.A.R. set markers along the travel route of the 8th Circuit Court which Lincoln rode semiannually. The Court traveled from Metamora to Bloomington along the Old White Oak Trail. The marker was dedicated and set at the Woodford/McLean County line in 1921 so as to "remind future generations that a great man traveled this way in his vocation as a lawyer."



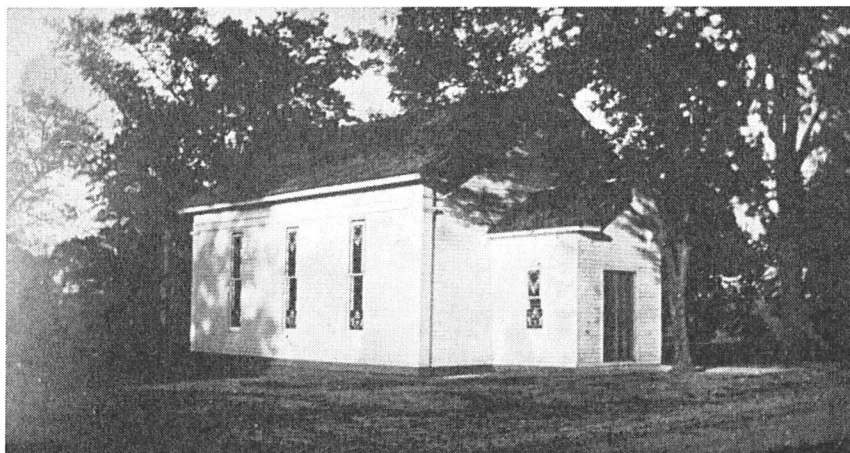
8. Benson Cemetery – The cemetery is located on the original Benson farmland. The first burial in 1841 was that of Sarah Benson, the Benson family matriarch. Today the Benson Cemetery is officially named the Oak Grove Cemetery, but is also commonly referred to as the Republican Cemetery.
9. Carlock Cemetery – Initially this cemetery was a Carlock family burial plot. In 1867 Abraham and Mary Carlock deeded the cemetery to Woodford County with the provision that the cemetery was to be used “by the inhabitants of White Oak Grove for a burial grounds”. The Old Democrat did not restrict the cemetery to Democrats only. Today the cemetery is officially named the White Oak Cemetery, but is commonly referred to as the Democrat Cemetery.
10. Old White Oak Trail – Initially the Trail followed the high ground from Blooming Grove to Wyatt’s Ford on the Mackinaw River. When the early settlers began buying farmland from the U.S. Government, many of the farmers moved the Trail to the borders of their farm. This was done to eliminate the Trail from cutting diagonally across their fields. Going north from the intersection of Denman Road and Brown Road to Wyatt’s Ford, Denman Road is the actual Old White Oak Trail. South from the Denman-Brown intersection, the trail ran diagonally south, southeast across the Benson farm.
11. Mackinaw Mineral Springs Spa and Hotel – The Mackinaw Springs was discovered in 1899. The mineral water from the Springs was bottled and sold in a Bloomington drug store as Ecstasy Water. The hotel and spa were constructed in 1901. Visitors often arrived by train at the Carlock Station and were transported by horse and buggy to the hotel. The hotel was destroyed by fire in 1917.



12. Wyatt's Ford – In the early years there were no bridges. Crossing the Mackinaw River was best accomplished at a relatively shallow ford. The north end of the Old White Oak trail where it crosses the river is known as Wyatt's Ford. Across the river, the Trail ran uphill to the village of Bowling Green.
13. Denman School – The first Denman School was a log structure, which was replaced by a frame structure in 1850. In 1867 a new one-room schoolhouse was built on this site. The current home on the Denman school property sits exactly on top of the spot where the 1867 school was located.



14. White Oak Methodist Church – The White Oak Methodist congregation was organized in the Smith Denman home in the early 1830's. The first Methodist church building was constructed on this site in 1859. The White Oak congregation combined with the Hudson Methodist Church in 1887.

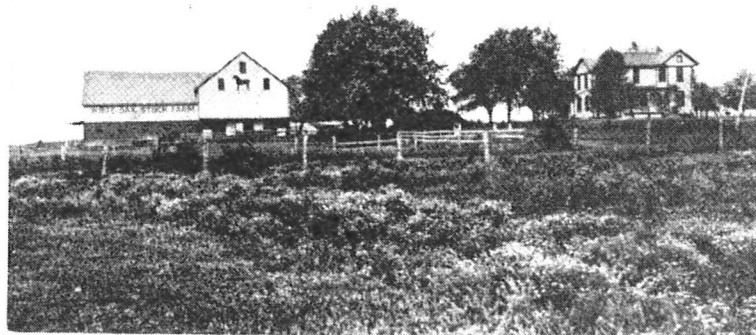


15. Smith Denman Farmstead – Smith Denman was the first to settle near White Oak Grove. The Smith Denman family came from Ohio and settled on this farm in September 1829. The existing barn is likely Denman's original barn.
16. Denman Cemetery – The first burial in this cemetery was likely Charles Denman, the 5-year-old son of Smith and Elizabeth Dixon Denman. The burial was in 1840. Graves from two early nearby cemeteries were moved to Denman Cemetery in 1874.

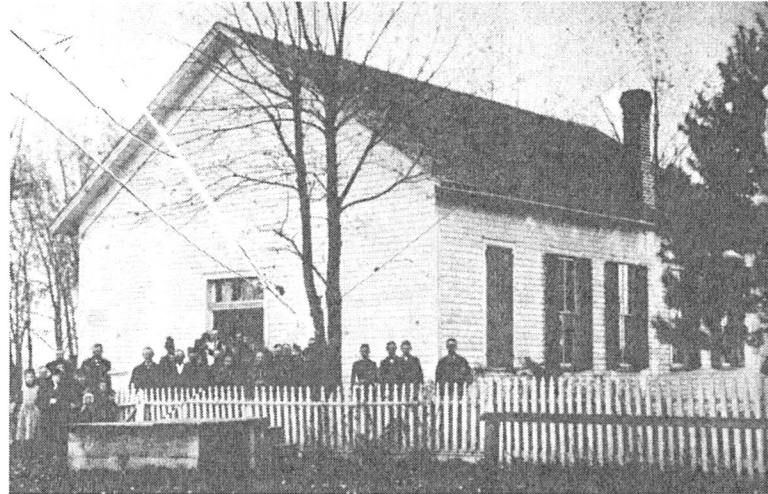
17. First Denman School – In its early years the Denman School was a subscription school. Classes were held in a log structure that stood on this site. The log schoolhouse was also used for public meetings and as a meeting house for the Methodist congregation until it built a church in 1859.
18. White Oak School – This one-room schoolhouse was built in the early 1900's on the Jesse Chism farm. Originally referred to as the Chism School, its name was changed in 1913 to the White Oak School.
19. Maple Grove School – The first classes in this neighborhood were held in Christian Ropp's home. A rough-hewn schoolhouse was built on the Christian Schad farm on the south side of the road at this intersection. In 1875 the Maple Grove schoolhouse was constructed. At the time of construction a number of maple trees were planted on the site so as to legitimize the Maple Grove name.
20. Ropp Cemetery – The first burial was in 1867. A family migrating west stayed overnight in the Ropp home. Their sick child died during the night and was buried in this new cemetery. A few months later the Ropp family matriarch, Magdalena Ropp, died and became the first family member to be buried in the cemetery. Until recently this was a private Ropp family cemetery. It is now administered by the Normal Mennonite Church.
21. East White Oak Mennonite Church – The congregation was organized in 1883. The early members were previously members of the North Danvers Mennonite Church and were desiring a more convenient location with less travel over muddy roads. By 1915 membership reached 800 with an average Sunday attendance of 150.



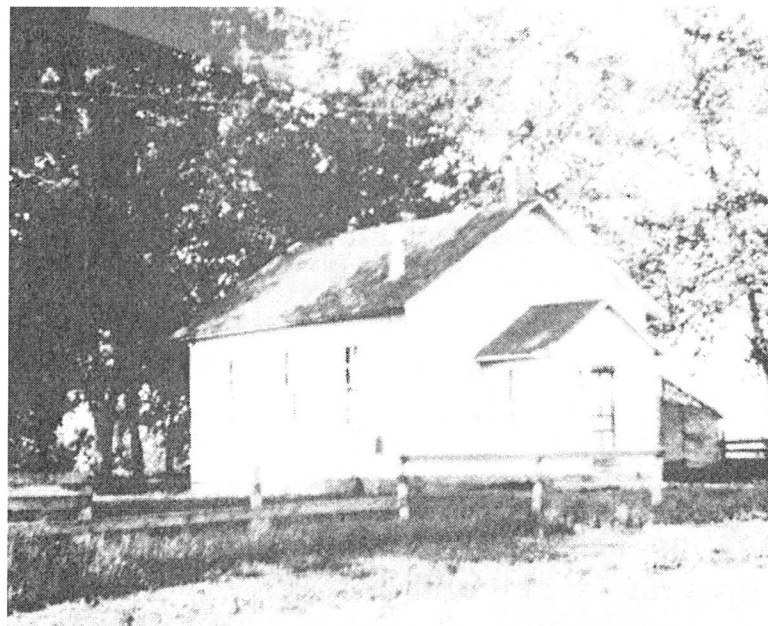
22. White Oak Stock Farm – The large barn housed Dan Augstin's prize-winning Percheron horses. The Augstin reputation for fine horses began with his wins at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. The barn was built in 1908.



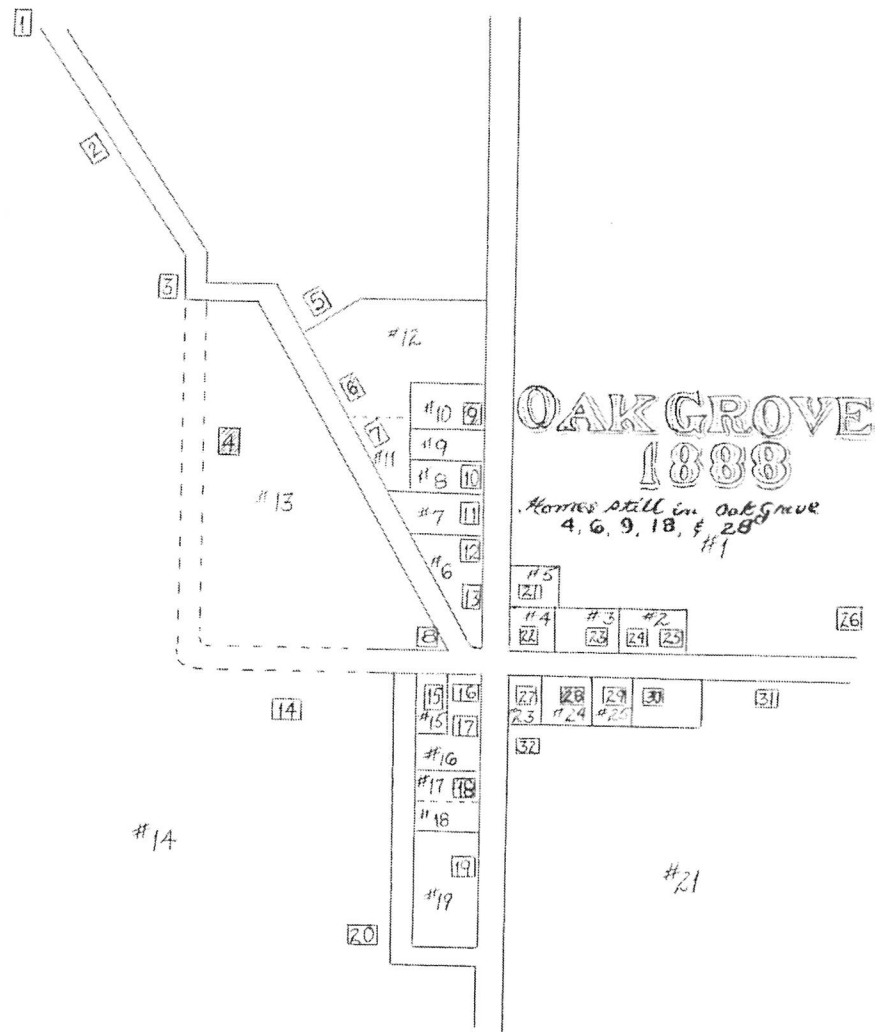
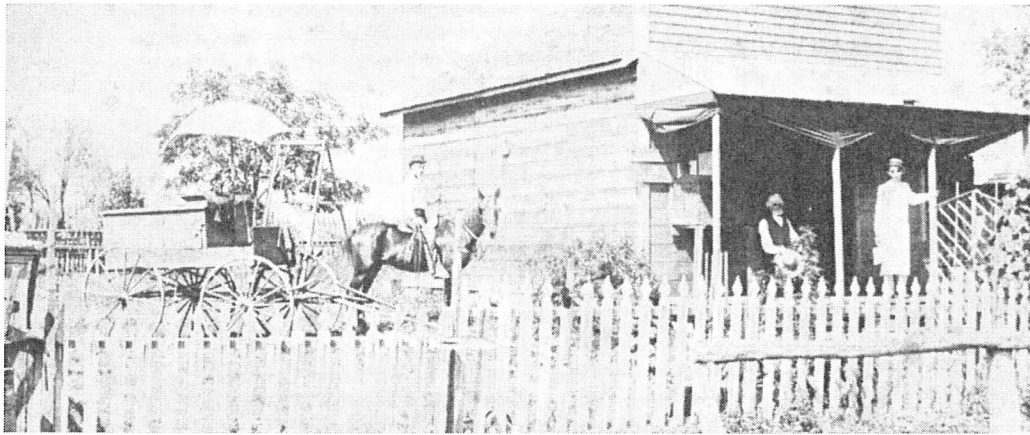
23. Troyer Cemetery – Initially this cemetery was a family burial plot. The first burial in 1858 was a Troyer son. He was buried in what was then the Troyers' orchard.
24. Presbyterian Church – The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Congregation of White Oak was organized in 1851. The congregation moved its church and parsonage to the Village of Carlock in 1897.



25. Crown Point School – A log schoolhouse, named the Swan School, was built in 1856 on the north side of the road. In 1870 a frame one-room schoolhouse, named Crown Point, was constructed on the south side of the road.



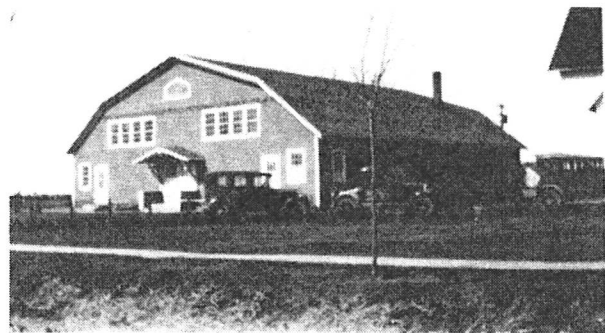
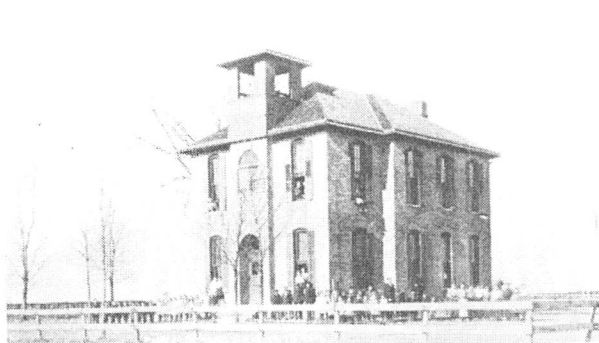
26. Oak Grove Village – By 1850 there was a cluster of homes along the Old White Oak Trail that was referred to as the Village of Oak Grove. By the early 1860's there were two general stores, a post office, a blacksmith shop, and a cabinet shop. The village was platted in 1879.



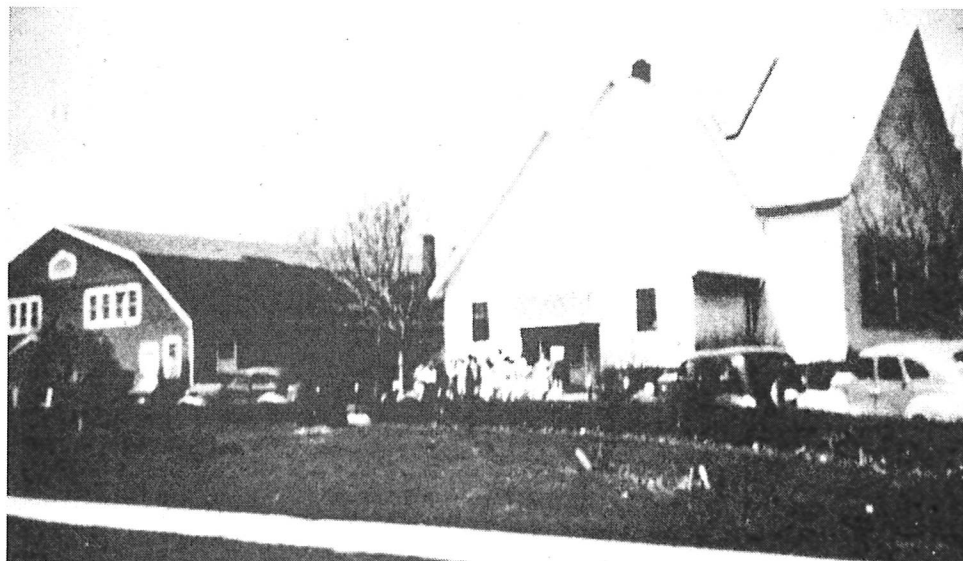
THE DWELLINGS AND BUSINESSES OF OAK GROVE ABOUT THE YEAR OF 1887-1888

1. Jonathan Sharp, residence
2. George Sherman, residence
3. U. G. Stutzman, residence, house moved to the town of Carlock, to where the Library stands today, it was moved to a lot on E. Douglas in 1903, the house was demolished in 1973 to build Bill Lillienthal home.
4. David A. Zook, residence, (father of J. W. Zook), in 1892 was sold to Jacob Gundy - Property of Marvin Smith - 1987
5. Magdalena Shoemaker, residence, moved to Carlock, Emery Bradshaw - 1987
6. Samuel Lantz, residence moved into Carlock, Mrs. Don Hayslips - 1987
7. Samuel Lantz's Cabinet Shop - Glen Broadfields - 1987
8. Oak Grove Post Office, Joe W. Zook postmaster, moved to Carlock, on Perry Str.
9. William Baldridge, residence
10. George Lippencott's Blacksmith Shop, moved to Carlock, Clyde Schmidt - 1987
11. Joe Clark, residence, school teacher
12. Lewis Reynolds, residence, in 1887 he sold to Wm. Morrow, Morrow moved the house to Carlock - Bob Bray - 1987
13. Lewis Reynolds Blacksmith & J. Maxey Wagon and Carriage Shop
14. Abe Lantz, residence, moved in to the lot west of the Carlock 66, later it was moved to west of Melvin Hendricks Wood shop, it stands on Lee Str. today - Stephen Hendricks - 1987
15. Joseph W. Zook, residence, moved to Carlock, the old house was demolished in 1924 by Guy Brown, property of Bob Sancken - 1987
16. Abe Lantz Store, first store in Oak Grove
17. Lantz's Bros. Ice House
18. Andrew Salzman, residence, earlier home of George Kirchenr Sr.
19. Issac Yoder, residence, school teacher
20. Sarah Jenny Carlock, residence, widow of Phillip Carlock (Grandparent of Donald Carlock)
21. White Oak Grove Town Hall
22. R.L. Carlock & U.G. Stutzman's Store
23. R.L. Carlock, residence, moved to Carlock, Franklin Street - Charles Shindel - 1987
24. Robert Beard's Butcher & Cobbler Shop
25. Robert Beard, residence, earlier it was the home of J. H. Snaveley, prior partner in the Carlock Store
26. Nathaniel Delano, residence
27. Dr. D. A. White's Office & Drug Store, prior owner and built by Dr. A.L. Chapman
28. Dr. D. A. white, residence, built by Dr. A. L. Chapman, in about the year 1885 Dr. Chapman moved to Bloomington, later he moved back to Carlock
29. Christian Miller, residence, (Grandparents of Mrs. Fern Hamilton and Mr. Joe Stutzman)
30. Ben Lantz, residence, later the home of Abner Gallispie
31. Ike Hooley, residence
32. George Lippencott, residence, moved to Carlock, next to where the Lippencott & Morrow Blacksmith stood, the house was moved to the property of David Imhoff Estate - the house east of Harold Imhoff's - 1987

27. Bunker Hill School – This one-room school served the nearby area before the existence of the Village of Carlock. When the Carlock Grade School District was created in 1893, Bunker Hill was closed.
28. Crescent School – Crescent School was built in 1893 simultaneous with the closing of nearby Bunker Hill and the opening of the new Carlock Grade School. Also known as the Engel School, this school operated until consolidation with Unit 5 in 1948. The schoolhouse still stands in the Hayslip backyard at the south edge of Carlock.
29. Carlock Grade School – A two-story brick schoolhouse was constructed in 1894 on the site where the “old section” of the current grade school now stands.
30. Carlock Gymnasium – The original gym was constructed in 1925 and stood where the current gym stands. The original gym has survived three major remodeling projects.



31. Carlock Township High School – CTHS was organized in 1914 and graduated its first class in 1918. In 1916 the old Christian Church building was moved to the site and remodeled to serve as a school. The building served as a high school until consolidated with Unit 5 in 1948. From 1948 to 1954 the building housed grade school classes, the school cafeteria, the principal’s office, the boys’ shop class, and the girls’ home-ec class.



32. Wintz Lawn Cemetery – Initially this cemetery was the Jonas Frey family burial plot with the first burial in 1860. Frey's son-in-law, Peter Wintz, became the owner of the farm and deeded the cemetery in 1872 to the Rock Creek Amish Mennonite Church. The Mennonites deeded the cemetery to the Wintz Lawn Cemetery Association, which deeded it to White Oak Township in 1976.