

APPENDIX I
HISTORIC CONTEXT

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Introduction

This historic context was developed for those portions of Paulding and Van Wert counties located within the current project area. This context explores the historical development of both counties, with a particular focus on the ten thematic associations identified by the Ohio Historic Preservation Office (Gordon n.d.:29). Based on a review of previously identified historic properties located within the project area, additional archival research was conducted on nine of the ten themes. These themes are: Agriculture, Arts and Recreation, Commerce, Education, Ethnic/Immigration, Manufacturing/Industrial, Political/Social Welfare, Religion/Ecclesiastical Group, and Transportation/Communication.

Settlement to Statehood (1675-1803)

Early explorations during the 1660s established the initial French claims to the Ohio region. Within a decade, English traders also penetrated Ohio and attempted to form alliances with native groups in an effort to pressure the French to leave the territory (WPA 1940:16). In 1748, Virginia investors formed the Ohio Land Company and claimed millions of acres of the best land along the Ohio River. In addition, at least two other colonies, Connecticut and Pennsylvania, claimed all or part of Ohio, based on their colonial charters. Although settlers from each of these areas transplanted their distinctive cultural attributes into their region of Ohio, the landscape expressions of these regional characteristics were adapted to the local Ohio topography. Ohio's first territorial legislature met in 1799 (WPA 1940:20). When a territory's population reached 50,000 it could petition Congress for full statehood (Bestor 1973:29). In 1803 Ohio became the seventeenth state to enter the Union.

As part of the Northwest Territory, both Paulding and Van Wert counties were divided into "townships six miles square 'by lines running due north and south, and others crossing these at right angles'" (Knepper 2003: 54). Each township was further subdivided into smaller sections and numbered sequentially. As settlers moved into the townships, the grid pattern was again utilized for planning towns and cities. This grid pattern is evident in Paulding and Van Wert Counties on a larger scale and within the individual towns like Van Wert and Grover Hill (Griffing 1886; Morrow 1905).

The two counties were located within the Black Swamp area covering most of northwestern Ohio; this area originally was covered with approximately 50 to 100 feet of water. The swamp partially receded and timbering became possible for settlers, but clay soils and pooling water continued to present drainage issues throughout the mid- to late nineteenth century. Prior to any agricultural endeavor, settlers first had to clear the land of the vast forests and then meet the challenge of draining the swampland (Hipp 1971:4, 45-46; Wilhelm 1984:79-80).

Paulding County

Statehood and Antebellum Period (1803-1860)

The earliest recorded white settlers in present-day Paulding County established homes along the Auglaize River and other waterways around 1819. The county was founded in 1820 and named after John Paulding, who is credited as one of the three captors of Major John Andre during the American Revolutionary War. During the 1830s, population in the county steadily increased as additional settlers began homesteading along Blue Creek. In 1830, Paulding County had a total population of 161; by 1840, this number had reached 1,034 residents (Winter 1917:529, 532; Budd 1882:n.p.; UVA 2004:n.p.).

In 1840, Paulding's county's first seat, New Rochester, was the most prosperous town in the county. Located along the Maumee River and on the stage route from Toledo to Fort Wayne, New Rochester contained "three hotels, three store-room[s], two blacksmith shops, two tailor shops..." and at least three general stores (Budd 1882:n.p.; Howe 1902:532). The following year, the county seat moved to Charloe taking all government-related businesses as well as most private businesses. Several lawyers joined the exodus including: D.N. Harrington, John W. Ayres, John D. Carlton, and Alexander S. Latty (Howe 1902:534). The population and economy of New Rochester quickly declined. As Budd described forty years later, "its buildings have rotted away, its once busy streets have become deserted... naught but an old moldering schoolhouse remains to mark the location of Paulding County's first place of transacting county business" (1882:n.p.). For ten years Charloe was Paulding's county seat; however, in 1851 the county seat moved to the newly laid out town of Paulding.

With the arrival of the county offices in 1851, the town of Paulding experienced a construction boom. Early buildings were hastily erected log buildings to meet the initial demand of county officers and settlers. The Exchange Hotel, constructed by Isaiah Richards, was the first frame building in Paulding. A second hotel, The Paulding House, was rapidly built (Winter 1917:540). The first noted merchant in the new county seat was Elias Shafer in 1857. Shafer operated a general store located in the front of his house. Other mercantile and grocery stores soon opened (Winter 1917:540). Despite being the county seat for over thirty years, Paulding was still described as having "a very primitive, woody look" in the late

1880s (Howe 1902:376). George W. Potter established the first bank, Potter's Bank, in 1874. A second bank was created in 1887, the Paulding Deposit Bank (Winter 1917:540).

Junction, located northeast of Paulding, was another Paulding County crossroads community that developed early. In 1845, the Miami and Erie Canal was completed through western Ohio; the portion through Paulding County was originally known as the Miami Extension Canal. The canal measured 50 feet wide and five feet deep and passed through Junction. Another canal, the Wabash and Erie also passed through the community. The Wabash and Erie extended westward from Junction through northern Paulding County to Indiana. The town reaped the benefits of being located at the intersection of two canals including the influx of travelers and low-cost shipping for goods. Junction was an extremely busy town with three hotels, three warehouses for grain, several "large well-stocked dry goods stores and grocery stores... [and] at least a half dozen places where liquid refreshments were disposed of" (Winter 1917:531-532). By the end of the decade, canal transportation began to ebb and with the total abandonment of the canals in the early 1900s Junction's wealth and population greatly diminished.

Elsewhere in the County, the introduction of canals caused a spike in industries, such as timbering. Settlers suddenly had the opportunity to ship their goods for less money and could take advantage of reaching markets further away. As a result, timbering thrived and cordwood, staves, and railroad ties became commodities that could be produced and transported to Toledo or other towns via the canal system (Ohio History Central 2009:n.p.; Hipp 1971:268, 20).

In 1850, Paulding County had a population of 1,766. The 1850 US Federal Census of Population recorded 77 farms in the county and 307 dwellings. Paulding County residents continued to clear timberland through the late 1870s. During the period from the mid-1850s through the 1870s, a large amount of the wood leaving the county was sold for ship building. Paulding County reportedly provided the largest amount and the highest quality of ship building timber in northwestern Ohio. The wood was transported by canal to Toledo, then on to Canada where it was transported to England. Canada funded portions of the process and sent specialists to Ohio to identify the best quality woods (UVA 2004:n.p.; Winter 1917:532; Hipp 1971:21).

Civil War (1861-1865)

The institution of slavery had been banned from the entire Northwest Territory since 1800; many of the state's residents had emigrated from states without a tradition of slavery. As a result, Ohio became an abolitionist stronghold in the years before the war. Ohio was largely pro-Union, and the state contributed both manpower and material to the Union war effort. However, Ohio Democratic Congressman Clement L. Vallandigham and his Copperhead followers actively promoted a conciliatory

approach to dealing with the Confederacy, ensuring a lively debate within the Democratic and Republican newspapers of the time (WPA 1940:26; Roseboom and Weisenburger 1996:189-195).

Although there was no military activity in the county, Paulding County contributed several companies of men to the Federal Army during the war. In 1861, within days of President Lincoln's first call for volunteers, volunteers from Paulding County formed Company "G" of the 14th Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Men from Paulding County formed Company "F" of the 38th Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry and Company "C" of the 68th Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry later that year. Companies formed later in the war included: Company "I" of the 100th Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry and Companies "A," "B," and "C" of the 42d Battalion Ohio National Guards (Budd 1882:n.p.).

Industrial Era (1865-1920)

The Toledo, Wabash & Western was the first railroad to enter Paulding County. It traveled north of the current project area through Cecil and Antwerp; construction of the railroad line was finished in 1855. An additional railroad was constructed from Cecil to Paulding in 1880; the Paulding & Cecil Railroad traveled only seven miles. In 1881, the New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad bisected the county travelling from Oakwood through Broughton, Latty, Briceton, and Payne then on to Indiana (Budd 1882:n.p.).

The nature of the timber business changed significantly in the late nineteenth century. When timbering for ship building materials ended during the 1880s, hoop and stave operations began to thrive, primarily using elm. Stave factories that developed during this period in and near the current project area included operations in Latty, Grover Hill, and Broughton. Sawmills were also prevalent in the county, producing lumber for frame construction that replaced log buildings. Other industries during this period included smelting iron ore. The two primary blast furnaces in the county included one in Antwerp and one in Paulding (Hipp 1971:22; Winter 1917:538).

By 1880, Paulding County had a population of 13,485. The county had 1,650 farms producing rye, oats, corn, buckwheat, and barley. In 1887, the Paulding Oil and Gas Company drilled the first oil well in the county in the community of Paulding. Although the first well did not produce large quantities, the idea thrilled the local population and wells were established in other locations (UVA 2004:n.p.; Winter 1917:538).

The Black Swamp area in the northwestern portion of the state continued to present drainage issues through the mid-to-late nineteenth century. Paulding County, being one of the flattest counties in the state, was particularly hindered by poor drainage and pools of standing water. During the 1870s and 1880s, the problem was seriously addressed; underground as well as open ditch systems were utilized to solve the issues. Tile mills appeared during the 1880s in Paulding County in order to provide supplies for

lining the ditches. For example, in 1883 a tile mill was established near Grover Hill. It produced approximately 8,000 tiles per day and was four acres in size. Another mill constructed near present-day Haviland produced 6,000 tiles per day using a “forty horsepower steam engine.” (Hipp 1971:45-46; Wilhelm 1984:79-80).

The installation of drainage systems in the Black Swamp area vastly improved the agricultural productivity of Paulding County. In 1880, the county produced 341,181 bushels of corn. This number more than doubled by 1890 to 765,735 bushels produced. Similarly, the value of land increased in the county as well. In 1880 the value of farm land along with fences and associated buildings for the county was \$2,804,778.00; the number more than doubled by 1890 to \$5,904,290.00. Drainage improvements continued through the early twentieth century, with the bulk of work ending around 1920 (UVA 2004:n.p.; Wilhelm 1984:90-91).

The 1905 *Atlas and Directory of Paulding County* depicts the county as primarily rural, with farms ranging in size from 40 acres to hundreds of acres. Creeks and ditches are noted in the atlas and appear to dominate the landscape. The town of Grover Hill appears in the atlas, divided into lots and bisected by the Cincinnati, Findlay and Ft. Wayne Railway. Businesses noted in the atlas include a planing mill, a flouring mill, a tile mill, a stock yard, and a brick yard. Four churches, one school, and a city hall are also present. The town of Haviland also is illustrated in the atlas. The Cincinnati, Findlay, and Ft Wayne Railway passed east-west through the community and the Cincinnati Northern Railroad traveled north-south. Although Latty also is included in the Atlas, no industries or commercial operations are indicated in the community. The Cincinnati, Northern Railroad and the New York, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad intersect in the center of the town (Morrow 1905:7, 21, 23, 35, 37, 39). By 1910, Paulding County had a population of 22,730. There were 2,840 farms in the county and 5,219 dwellings. The population declined slightly by 1920 to 18,736. By this time there were 2,414 farms and 4,499 dwellings in the county (UVA 2004:n.p.).

Post World War I – Present

Northwestern Ohio maintained its rural and agricultural character throughout the 20th century and into the 21st century. In 2006, the Ohio Department of Development reported that 87.81 per cent of the land in Paulding County was used as crop land; another 1.21 per cent was used for pasture and 7.66 per cent was forested. Only 2.13 per cent of the land in Paulding County was classified as “urban” (n.p.). The dramatic increase from farm sizes as compared to the early part of the twentieth century, suggests a move in the county away from the family run farm to large scale agri-business. In 1900 the average farm in Paulding County was 66 acres; in 1940 the average farm was 140 acres in size (UVA 2004:n.p.). In contrast, in 2006, there were 640 farms in the county and the average farm size was 359 acres.

Transportation enhancements throughout the county included the introduction of several major state routes and highways. Today, the project area retains a primarily agricultural landscape, with small communities surrounded by farmland. Current crops include soybeans, corn, and wheat. Small historic communities remaining in the area include Grover Hill, Scott, Haviland, Briceton, and Paulding. The US Census Bureau estimated a county population of 19,096 for Paulding (US Census Bureau 2009).

Van Wert County

Statehood and Antebellum Period (1803-1860)

On 1 April 1820 Van Wert County was formed along with several other Ohio counties from lands ceded by the Shawnee and Miami Indian tribes. The county is named after Isaac Van Wert, one of three young men who succeeded in capturing British officer Major Andre during the American Revolutionary War (O'Daffer 1990:41).

The earliest settlers arrived shortly before the formation of Van Wert County. Captain James Riley, credited as the first white settler in the county, settled in present-day Willshire. Captain Riley surveyed and laid out the town of Willshire in 1821, which became the first county seat (O'Daffer 1990:51). Other early settlers in the area around Willshire included: Ansel Blossom, Roswell J. Riley, John O'Donnell, Peter Keller, John Reeves, Reese E. Chapman and George Thomas. Ansel Blossom, the first educator in Van Wert County, began teaching on January 1, 1836 out of a one-story log house (Winter 1917:602). Other schools in the county followed the same trend of teaching in any available building including private residences. E.R. Wells taught classes in the Van Wert Courthouse until a log building was designated for use as the schoolhouse (Winter 1917:608).

Settlers began to homestead and establish farms outside of Willshire and eventually developed eleven additional townships and several new towns. Ridge Township (1836), Pleasant Township (1837), Union Township (1837), and Hoaglin Township (1839) were founded soon after Willshire Township (O'Daffer 1990:50-286). The first 78 lots of the town of Van Wert were platted on 26 May 1835; a second plat was filed 23 May 1837 with 246 designated lots (O'Daffer 1990:284). The county seat moved to the town of Van Wert in 1838. Although agriculture was the predominant source of livelihood in the county (Winter 1917:605) there was some local industrial development. In Van Wert, Captain Riley financed the construction of a grist mill in 1838 and his son James Watson Riley later constructed a saw mill.

Agriculture and farming quickly became the mainstay of the County's economy. In 1840, there were 14,850 acres of improved land in Van Wert County. The 1,076 milch cows comprising the county's nascent dairy industry produced 77,346 pounds of butter and 6,060 pounds of cheese. The principal grains produced in the county were wheat (31,900 bushels) and corn (67,175 bushels). By 1860, the

amount of improved land in Van Wert more than tripled to 48,541 acres. The county boasted 3,492 milch cows producing 185,037 pounds of butter and 10,805 pounds of cheese. Grain production had dramatically increased; the county produced 103,564 bushels of wheat and 296,191 bushels of corn in 1860. By 1887, grain production had further expanded. For example, yields had quadrupled and oat production had outstripped wheat; the major grain crops yielded: 222,667 bushels of wheat, 396,763 bushels of oats, and 1,201,750 bushels of corn (U.S. Agricultural Census 1840, 1860; Howe 1902:719).

Industry in Van Wert County, which had begun with Captain Riley and the erection of his grist mill along the St. Mary's River in Willshire around about 1821, expanded throughout the first half of the nineteenth century (O'Daffer 1990:281). Grist and sawmills tended to be among the first and most numerous industries constructed within each township. Tully Township listed six sawmills in the early part of its history while Union Township claimed seven (O'Daffer 1990:281). Other industrial pursuits included tanneries, stave mills, coopers, brick kilns, and clay tile mills. Commercial enterprises consisted of wagon and carriage makers, shoemakers, blacksmiths, and saloons. During the 1840s, one of Van Wert's leading industries was a baseball bat manufacturer (Gilliland 1991:270; O'Daffer 1990:282).

During this time period, Van Wert County's population greatly increased from 49 in 1830 to 10,238 by 1860 (Howe 1902: 719). A partial reason for the influx is the transportation system that developed within the county. The Miami-Erie Canal, begun March 14, 1837 and completed April 29, 1845, passed through the town of Delphos, east of Van Wert, and assisted farmers in transporting their crops to outside markets (O'Daffer 1990:346-349). Several railroads were laid in Ohio during the 1850s including the Ohio and Indiana Railroad, later known as the "Pittsburg, Fort Wayne and Chicago" Railroad, which connected several towns in Van Wert County to larger economic centers (Gilliland 1991:38).

Civil War (1861-1865)

During the war Ohio contributed both manpower and material to the Union war effort (WPA 1940:26). Van Wert County contributed 361 volunteer soldiers to the Federal Army in the first year of the Civil War; by September of the following year, that number had grown to 685 men. Many of the men from the county served in the 95th Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry (Winter 1917:264-265). Many of the African American residents of Van Wert County served the Union cause by enlisting in the United States Colored Troops (Richey 1973:5).

Industrial Era (1865-1920)

The late 1800s, Van Wert County saw a remarkable increase in industry, transportation, and population. Interurban rails were constructed in the 1890s linking Van Wert County communities to

larger cities in Ohio. The Ohio Electric Line was composed of smaller lines which connected Toledo, Fort Wayne, Lima, and Van Wert. The Lima and Toledo Traction Company owned 65 miles of tracks including the Fort Wayne, Van Wert and Lima Traction Line. The rail line ran through downtown Van Wert along Main Street with six cars operating six days of the week. New railroads entered the county during this same period including the Clover Leaf Railroad and the Cincinnati Northern – New York Central Railway; both ran through Ohio City. Other lines in the area included: the Chicago and Atlantic (Erie) Railroad; Cincinnati, Jackson, and Mackinaw Railroad; and the Pennsylvania Railroad (O’Daffer 1990:384).

With the expansive transportation network in place, new industry arrived in Van Wert County. By 1888, manufacturers in the town of Van Wert employed 1,300 out of a population of 5,160. In 1894, the stave mill in Van Wert was the largest in Ohio with 120 employees. Industries now included: Van Wert Manufacturing Company which produced men’s overalls; Western Ohio Bottling Company; and the Anderson Piano Company, Van Wert’s leading manufacturer in 1900 (O’Daffer 1990:125; 282-301). However, the popularity and speed of the railways led to the eventual demise of the canals. The last canal boat recorded in Delphos was the *Margurite* with its last run on August 14, 1906 (O’Daffer 1990:349).

The progress and industrial expansion of late nineteenth century Van Wert County was hindered at the turn of the century as a result of several fires which caused substantial damage in the county. Convoy suffered two fires which together burned the entire business section of the town. The first fire occurred August 7-9, 1900 and the second on January 16, 1906. The town of Van Wert also was the scene of a large fire on October 6, 1909 (O’Daffer 1990:103). When the residents of both towns rebuilt, they favored brick over frame construction.

Post World War I – Present

With the advent of automobiles, the transportation system in Van Wert County continued to evolve. The trolleys and railroads began a slow decline with the last trolley serving Van Wert on June 30, 1932; the rails were removed in 1979. The Lima and Toledo Line Company never recovered after three fatal head-on collisions in 1935 and another fatal accident the following year when a car jumped the tracks. The last Pennsylvania Railroad steam engine traveled through Van Wert on June 17, 1947 (O’Daffer 1990:356-367).

Despite the collapse of the interurban trolleys and railroads, Van Wert continued to attract industry. The Monroe Cheese Company arrived in 1926 and was followed by the Container Company, Advance Machine Company, Spayd Brothers Foundry, DWG Cigars, and the National Seal Company among others through the 1940s. The American Popcorn Company and Philips Lighting Corporation were two of many that moved into the county during the 1960s (O’Daffer 1990:283). However, by the

late twentieth century, Van Wert's manufacturing sector had become heavily dependent upon the automotive industry. In 2008, the Van Wert County, Ohio Economic Development Group prepared an Economic Development Strategy for the county that discussed the impact of job losses related to the automotive industry and the importance of future economic diversification in the county (2-5).

Although crops and farming methods have changed, Van Wert County remains largely rural and agricultural. In 1900, the average farm in Van Wert County was 76 acres; in 1940 the average farm was 106 acres in size. In 2007, the Ohio Department of Development reported that 87.13 per cent of the land in Van Wert County was used as crop land; another 2.15 per cent was used for pasture and 4.01 per cent was forested. A total of 3.91 per cent of the land in Van Wert County was classified as "urban" (n.p). At that time, there were 660 farms in the county; and the average farm size had increased to 368 acres. This dramatic increase from farm sizes as compared to the early part of the twentieth century, suggests that the county was following a larger trend away from the family run farm to large scale agri-business.

Thematic Associations

The Ohio Historic Preservation Office has identified ten thematic associations for use in the classification of historic properties (Gordon n.d.:29). Based on a review of previously identified historic properties located within the current project area, nine of the ten themes were identified as being of particular importance to the development of Paulding and Van Wert counties. These themes are: Agriculture, Arts and Recreation, Commerce, Education, Ethnic/Immigration, Manufacturing/Industrial, Political/Social Welfare, Religion/Ecclesiastical Group, and Transportation/Communication. The following discussion of these themes seeks to place them within the context of the development of Paulding and Van Wert counties.

Agriculture

Agriculture in Paulding and Van Wert Counties slowly developed during the 19th century compared to the rest of the state. In 1850, Ohio led the United States in corn and wool production; the state ranked second in the nation for wheat production and third in oats and potatoes (Roseboom and Weisenburger 1996:209). While Ohio emerged as a significant agricultural state, Paulding and Van Wert Counties were two of the least productive counties. In the 1850 census, Paulding County identified 77 farms while Van Wert County had 317 of the 143,887 farms in Ohio (UVA 2004:n.p.). The relatively slow pace of agricultural development in Paulding and Van Wert counties was due in large part to the challenges presented in settling the Black Swamp, which covered large swaths of both counties.

The Black Swamp covered much of northwest Ohio. Prior to any agricultural endeavor, settlers first had to clear the land of the vast forests and then meet the challenge of draining the swampland. The

Black Swamp area in the northwestern portion of the state originally was covered with approximately 50 to 100 feet of water. The swamp partially receded and timbering became possible for settlers, but clay soils and pooling water continued to present drainage issues through the mid and late nineteenth century. During the 1870s and 1880s, the problem was seriously addressed; underground as well as open ditch systems were utilized to improve drainage (Hipp 1971:4, 45-46; Wilhelm 1984:79-80).

During the early stages of draining the land, existing stream channels were improved and in some cases widened and deepened. Drainage ditches then were completed to feed into the existing streams. When tree stumps were removed from farmland, the root systems allowed for temporary underground draining. Manmade underground draining systems were introduced once these systems collapsed. Some farmers created their own drainage using lumber; this was much more affordable than acquiring tile, and lumber was readily available. An 1880 Agricultural Society report for Paulding County explained that “quite a number of our farmers tile their underdrains with wood split from the trunks of trees...which is estimated will last ten to fifteen years” (Wilhelm 1984:82).

By 1880, settlers had made great strides in developing the land for agricultural purposes. Tile mills appeared during the 1880s in both counties in order to provide supplies for lining ditches. For example, in 1883 a tile mill was established near Grover Hill in Paulding County. It produced approximately 8,000 tiles per day and was four acres in size. Another mill constructed in the county near present-day Haviland produced 6,000 tiles per day using a “forty horsepower steam engine” (Hipp 1971:4, 45-46; Wilhelm 1984:79-80). According to a 1984 essay on the drainage of Black Swamp printed in *Northwest Ohio Quarterly*, “by 1880 drainage ditches had been constructed along the perimeters of almost every section of land in the counties of the Black Swamp” (Wilhelm 1984:80).

Drainage of the Black Swamp area vastly improved the agricultural productivity of Paulding and Van Wert counties. Agricultural production as well as farm land value increased tremendously between 1880 and 1890, as illustrated in the following table.

Table 1 Value of agricultural properties and selected crops in Paulding and Van Wert counties, 1880 and 1890

	Van Wert 1880	Van Wert 1890	Paulding 1880	Paulding 1890
Valuation of agricultural land, fences, and buildings	\$7,187,970.00	\$10,596,295	\$2,804,778	\$5,904,290
Bushels of rye produced	7,601	65,924	3,174	9,290
Bushels of oats produced	265,660	581,811	101,549	232,498
Bushels of Indian Corn produced	1,100,213	1,789,597	341,181	765,735
Bushels of buckwheat produced	2,698	3,197	2,266	3,259
Bushels of barley produced	1,334	9,436	322	3,385

(UVA 2004:n.p.)

Early drains were dug by hand, a laborious and time consuming task. Although some farmers attempted to be more efficient, using horses, it quickly was realized that hand labor was more exact and provided better consistency in grading. During the 1890s, steam ditchers were introduced in some parts of northwestern Ohio (Wilhelm 1984:85). Prior to 1860 the entire State of Ohio had only 160 miles of open ditches affecting 89,000 acres of land. The three most active decades in ditch construction in northwest Ohio were 1870-1878 when 2,840 miles were dug; 1880-1889 when 4,300 miles were dug; and 1890-1899 when 3,040 miles were dug. By 1920 15,000 miles of open drains in northwest Ohio had improved nearly 5,000,000 acres of land (Wilhelm 1984:80).

Between 1850 and 1880 the number of farms in Paulding County increased to 1,650; in Van Wert County the number of farms reached 2,299. The three main crops for both counties included corn, wheat, and oats. The Census of 1900 recorded the greatest number of farms for both counties with 3,783 farms in Paulding and 3,367 in Van Wert. As the number of farms increased, the average farm size decreased. Paulding County's farms averaged 80 acres in 1880 while neighboring Van Wert County averaged 94 acres. By 1900, farms had decreased to an average of 66 and 76 acres respectively. However, during the mid-twentieth century this trend reversed and the number of farms decreased while individual farm acreage increased. In 1940 the average farm comprised 140 acres in Paulding County and 106 acres in Van Wert County (UVA 2004: np). During the latter half of the twentieth century, the average farm size in both counties increased significantly. By 2007, according to their respective profiles provided by the Ohio Department of Development, Van Wert County had 660 farms with an average acreage of 368, while Paulding County recorded 640 farms with an average farm size of 359 acres. Both of the counties also remain largely rural with similar percentages of cropland; 87.13 percent of the Van Wert County, and 87.81 percent of Paulding County (Ohio Department of Development, Van Wert County 2007:n.p.; Ohio Department of Development, Paulding County 2006).

Associated Resources. Ten previously identified buildings associated with the theme of agriculture are located within the current project area. These buildings include six domestic structures: the Helen and Catherin Lindsay House, the Esther Vorpe Residence, two owned by RSP Wallace LLC, Jeffrey and Justin Wallace, and the Gary and Roberta Thomas residence. A Quonset hut was also surveyed in the project area. In addition, three barns were previously surveyed. At the time it was surveyed, the George Carlo Bank Barn retained its original slate roof, the design of which included the farm's name, owner's name, and construction date, "Fountain Farm, F. Carlo, 1892" (Ohio Historic Inventory [OHI] Form VAN-29-3). Two barns associated with the Marsh Foundation are also present within the current project area.

In addition, two round barns were identified in the vicinity, one in Harrison Township, Van Wert County and another in Emerald Township, Paulding County. Although not located within the current 5-

mile APE, these barns, identified as part of the “Thematic Resources: Round Barns in the Black Swamp of Northwest Ohio” are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and are suggestive of the prominence of scientific farming practices in the region during the early part of the twentieth century. The round barn located in Harrison Township, Van Wert County, was owned by George Hawkins at the time it was listed in the National Register; the frame building was constructed in the late 1910s and measured 65 feet in diameter and 55 feet in height. The round barn located in Emerald Township, Paulding County was constructed circa 1911 by Ohio Wesleyan University.

Arts and Recreation

Due to the increased wealth from transportation and industry, arts and recreation benefitted from philanthropic and private endeavors in Van Wert and Paulding Counties. These counties have several fine examples of high style architecture designed by prominent Ohioan architects. Van Wert County Courthouse, Paulding County Courthouse, Brumback Library, and Paulding County Library are only a few buildings that exemplify the affluence and prosperity the counties were enjoying during the late 19th century through the early 20th century.

The Van Wert County Courthouse and First United Methodist Church were both designed by T.J. Tolan & Sons of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Originally from Delphos, Ohio, the Tolans later moved to Indiana. The Second Empire Van Wert County Courthouse is one of the most noted buildings in both counties. The eight-foot statue of Justice adorning the courthouse won first place in a competition held in Philadelphia prior to its arrival in Van Wert for the courthouse (National Register [NR] Nomination Form 74001639tpo). Including Van Wert’s courthouse, T.J. Tolan & Sons designed eleven courthouses throughout Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, and Illinois in the Second Empire’s high style (City of Fort Wayne nd; Davis County Courthouse Preservation Fund n.d.).

Another prominent Ohioan architect with a building in the project area is E.O. Fallis of Toledo, Ohio. Edward O. Fallis is credited with designing the Paulding County Courthouse. The courthouse was built in the late Romanesque Revival Style (NR 74001589). Similar to the Tolans, Fallis designed other distinguished public buildings in northwest Ohio such as the Williams County Courthouse, also National Register listed, and the Toledo Public Library (Cooley and Maynard n.d.; Toledo’s Attic n.d.).

The Van Wert Post Office was constructed in 1915 with funds provided by the U.S. Treasury Department, which also oversaw much of the project planning. According to the Ohio Historic Property Inventory form, the Georgian Revival post office was designed by the Treasury Department architects and reviewed by supervisory architect, James Alexander Wetmore (OHI VAN 82-7). Wetmore is credited with overseeing numerous other government facilities during the early twentieth century. Examples of his Federal buildings include the post office in Warrington, Ohio and the post office in Kansas City, Missouri

as well as the courthouse in Portland, Oregon, and the courthouse in Rock Hill, South Carolina (Ohio News Bureau 1917:8; NR 04000213; U.S. GSA n.d.; NR S10817746025).

The Richardsonian Romanesque Brumback Library is an example of philanthropy that culminated in an eclectic building. Designed by David L. Stine of Toledo, Ohio, the library resembles a small castle complete with towers, embattlements, and heavy stone construction. The great attention to detail on the interior of the library is evident in the marbled mosaic floors, arched ceilings, and paneling (NR 79001973). Stine was known for his fantastical designs in both public and private sectors. For example, the Lucas County Courthouse features a frog tile mosaic floor and carved frogs on the exterior of the courthouse. Several of his private endeavors were designed in the shingle style including Toledo's Libbey Mansion, a National Historic Landmark (Libbey House Foundation n.d.).

Continuing the philanthropic trend, Andrew Carnegie funded the construction of Paulding County Carnegie Library designed by Howard & Merriam of Columbus, Ohio. According to the National Register nomination, the library follows the recommendation outlined in James Bertram's "Notes on Library Buildings" (NR 83002021). Oscar D. Howard and Roy J. Merriam also designed the first presidential library, Hayes Presidential Library, in a similar Neo-Classical style and designed the plans for a school in Columbus, Ohio (Beach, 1917:8).

Upon George Marsh's death in 1920, an allotment of \$5 million was bequeathed towards the establishment of a school and home for disadvantaged children. Langdon, Hohly, & Gram of Toledo, Ohio, designed the six Jacobethan styled buildings for the Marsh Foundation (NR 80003239). The architectural firm was also contracted for the Toledo Blade Building in Toledo and the Swanton School outside of Toledo. The Toledo Blade Building was designed in the unique Spanish Renaissance style (Speck 2004:73; Buttenheim 1929:431).

During the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, opera houses and theatres appeared in towns throughout the country. One reason for this emergence was the development of the railroads. The railroads facilitated the travelling opera and thespian troupes; with easy access to cities and the addition of new boomtowns along the railroads, open venues appeared everywhere. Larger cities often dedicated a sole building to the arts in the Beaux Arts style while smaller towns constructed theatres above town businesses and offices (Tressler, 1999:6). It appears that this held true in Van Wert and Paulding Counties during the late nineteenth century as evidenced in Ohio Historic Inventory Form VAN-287-1 for Waverly Hall. Waverly Hall, a theatre and auditorium, was located on the top floor of a Van Wert commercial building erected in 1876. The same form identifies three other recreational buildings during the same time period: Gilliland Opera House; Melodeon Hall; and Strandler Auditorium. Hicksville, a small town in Paulding County, opened the Huber Opera House in 1895. The opera house

converted an 1882 hotel into a usable facility which remains in use today (Huber House and Civic Center, n.d.).

Commerce

Commercial enterprises in Van Wert and Paulding Counties were slow to develop, in some areas lagging a decade or more behind agricultural settlements. As settlers continued to migrate west during the 1830s and 1840s, small cross-roads communities appeared with the first commercial venues. Amenities such as hotels, groceries, and dry goods stores were commonly the initial businesses for the benefit of both the traveler and the local resident.

In the early years in Paulding County, the centers of commerce tended to follow the center of government; when the county seat was moved, the commercial enterprises followed. By 1840, Paulding's county seat, in New Rochester, was the most prosperous town in the county. Located along the Maumee River and on the stage route from Toledo to Fort Wayne, New Rochester contained "three hotels, three store-room[s], two blacksmith shops, two tailor shops..." and at least three general stores (Budd 1882:n.p.; Howe 1902:532). After the county seat moved to Charloe in 1841 New Rochester quickly declined. Nearly all businesses and services followed the move, and 40 years later New Rochester was described as deserted and rotting (Budd 1882:n.p.). For ten years Charloe was Paulding's county seat; however, in 1851 the county seat moved to the newly laid out town of Paulding. Charloe suffered a fate similar to New Rochester after the loss of the county seat and loss of commercial interests.

Early settlement also concentrated around transportation centers and when these moved, the communities suffered the same fate as those affected by shifts in the centers of government. The community of Junction was located at the intersection of two canals and in the latter half of the nineteenth century reaped the benefits of travel and low-cost shipping for goods. Early in its development, after 1849, Junction was an extremely busy town with three hotels, three warehouses for grain, several "large well-stocked dry goods stores and grocery stores... [and] at least a half dozen places where liquid refreshments were disposed of" (Winter 1917:531-532). As other transportation routes were established and improved, canal transportation began to ebb and with the total abandonment of the canals in the early 1900s Junction's wealth and population greatly diminished.

The first known commercial business in Van Wert County was opened in 1836 when Henry Reichard began operation of a dry goods store in Willshire. Reichard's store was followed by a tavern owned by William Case in 1838 (Winter 1917:602). However, the first government record in Van Wert County concerning a dry goods store occurs in 1838 when the county treasurer collected "3 per cent on the capital of Samuel M. Clark," owner of a dry goods store and tavern in Van Wert. Samuel Clark resided in a double log house and erected a small one-story frame building nearby for his dry goods store.

Other early general store owners included Adam Nimon and Thomas R. Mott; together they built one of the earliest log buildings in Van Wert. In 1842, Walter Buckingham arrived and began a store with dry goods, groceries, and hardware (Winter 1917:605). The Clark Shoe Store was founded in 1849 by James Clark in Van Wert (Van Wert Historical Society [VWHS] 1981:190). Samuel Clark also owned a small tavern with a sign proclaiming it as, “The Other Tavern Kept by Samuel M. Clark”. Daniel Cook operated a tavern, known as Eagle Tavern, in Van Wert in a small log building that measured 18 by 24 feet (Winter 1917:605). Cook’s tavern was later demolished in 1870 and replaced by a brick hotel.

In addition to the dry goods and taverns, numerous lawyers eventually settled in Van Wert. James Madison Barr was the first lawyer recorded in Van Wert County by Winter. Barr arrived in Van Wert in 1842 and practiced law in the nearby counties as well as in Van Wert. Several other lawyers arrived from 1844 to 1846 including: William E. Brown, R.C. Spears, Charles P. Edson, and Perin C. Depuy (Winter 1917:603).

As communities grew and prospered, commercial buildings evolved from simple frame structures to more elaborate brick buildings with extravagant detailing in the popular architectural styles of the time. The most prevalent style utilized for commercial architecture in Van Wert and Paulding Counties was the Italianate style; from around 1850 through the late 1890s commercial buildings were adorned with brackets, window hoods, and elaborate storefronts. Another common trait is the falsefront; these “front-facing wall[s]” usually give the illusion of an Italianate commercial building “extending above the roof of the building” and frequently decorated with brackets (Gordon n.d:159).

With the arrival of the county offices in 1851, Paulding experienced a construction boom. The first buildings were hastily erected log buildings to meet the initial demand of county officers and settlers. The Exchange Hotel, constructed by Isaiah Richards, was the first frame building in Paulding. A second hotel, The Paulding House, was rapidly built (Winter 1917:540). The first noted merchant in the new county seat was Elias Shafer in 1857. Shafer operated a general store located in the front of his house. Other mercantile and grocery stores soon opened (Winter 1917:540). Despite being the county seat for over thirty years, Paulding was still described as having “a very primitive, woodsy look” in the late 1880s (Howe 1902: 376). George W. Potter established the first bank, Potter’s Bank, in 1874. A second bank was created in 1887, the Paulding Deposit Bank (Winter 1917:540)

Charles Emerson and Andrew S. Burt opened the First National Bank of Van Wert on 25 February 1863. The bank was later incorporated in March 1882 as The Van Wert National Bank. A second bank, The Peoples Savings Bank, was established in 1902. In 1927, People’s Bank constructed an impressive Neo-Classical Revival building on Main Street in Van Wert (OHI VAN-253-7).

During the early settling of the counties, physicians and surgeons were very few. The doctors that did arrive often traveled distances of over twenty miles to visit their patients. The earliest physician to

practice in Van Wert was Dr. William McHenry. Dr. McHenry lived in Lima and traveled across the county conducting house calls until the arrival of Dr. P.J. Hines in 1838. Dr. Hines arrived from Washington, D.C. and settled in Van Wert. Other physicians who arrived in Van Wert during the 1840s include Dr. John W. Lennox, Dr. James Burson, Dr. John Q. Adams, and Dr. C.W. Boland (Winter 1917:604). During the 1854 Asiatic Cholera epidemic, Willshire only had two doctors to attend to the sick, Dr. Melcheimer and Dr. Pearce (Howe 1902:726-727). Winter listed the early physicians of Paulding County, but did not include information on the location of their practices except for Dr. Olds who practiced in Charloe in 1852. These early doctors included Dr. John Kingery, Dr. Royal B. Cooper, Doctor Marcellus, and Dr. B.B. Woodcock (1917:535). By the mid-1870s surgeons, Christopher and Hankins occupied offices in the Union Block, a large brick Italianate building in Van Wert (OHI VAN-295-7).

During the late nineteenth century, two large insurance companies formed in Van Wert: The Farmers Mutual Aid Association of Van Wert County and The Van Wert County Mutual Fire Insurance Company (Winter 1917:607). Fourteen prominent citizens of Van Wert formed the first insurance company with the aim of offering affordable insurance. Most buildings were still wood-frame near the turn of the twentieth century and Van Wert lacked an organized fire department. The Van Wert County Mutual Fire Insurance Company formed in 1876 and later became The Central Manufacturers Mutual Insurance Company. The fourteen citizens first established their business in two offices on the second floor of a downtown building. By 1906, their profits had tripled; a four-story brick building was constructed to house the growing insurance company. The elaborate brick building is located on the corner of Main and Jefferson Streets (VWHS 1981:187; OHI VAN-286-7). In 1931, the insurance company moved to a newly constructed building on Washington Street. The \$430,000 building was designed in the Georgian-Colonial style. Several additions to the building and property occurred in 1958 and 1976; in 1951 The Central Manufacturers Mutual Insurance Company became Central Mutual Insurance Company (VWHS 1981:187).

A common practice during the twentieth century was adaptive reuse of buildings rather than new construction. This trend is clearly seen in Van Wert. The Kauke and McCurdy Block was constructed in 1861-62. The brick building is three stories and encompasses four individual addresses, 101-107 West Main Street. This Italianate style building was the first business block constructed in Van Wert. In 1980 the building was occupied by two fashion stores, a jewelry store, and a bootery (OHI VAN 289-7). Another great example of continual usage is the Iron Block. Erected in 1873, the Iron Block earned its name from the “cast iron supporting elements.” The first businesses in the Iron Block were Thomas Gephart’s Bakery and Restaurant, First National Bank, and Brumback’s Dry Good Store. From 1905 to 1939 Harry Gleason’s Tobacco Shop operated in the building and in 1980 the First National Bank owned

the entire Iron Block (OHI VAN-255-7). In 1946, Raymond Butler moved to Van Wert and established Butler's Bakery at 242 West Main Street; eventually, Butler's Baker moved in 1971 to a larger building downtown located at 117 West Main Street (VWHS 1981:188).

Associated Resources. Within the project area, forty-three buildings relating to commercial enterprises have been previously identified. These buildings are located in the town of Van Wert and vary in date from 1861 through 1924. Most of these properties were built in the 1870s to 1890s range; this sudden increase in construction coincides with the arrival of the railroads in Van Wert County and signifies the simultaneously abrupt increase in population and wealth. The least amount of new construction occurs between 1910 and 1930 with only six commercial properties identified. This decrease in construction indicates Van Wert's reliance upon the railroads; with the end of the railways in the 1930s and 1940s, Van Wert lost its steady income from travelers and the transportation of material goods. However, two of the buildings constructed in the 1920s were car dealerships. With the Lincoln Highway passing through the downtown of Van Wert it can be expected that an increase in hotels, eateries, and automotive maintenance shops occurred.

Education

The Ordinance of 1785, establishing the Northwest Territory, made some provisions for public education by designating a section within each township for use as a public school. The Ohio Constitution of 1803 encouraged local educational efforts, but did not mandate public education. It would not be until 1825 that the Ohio General Assembly would mandate and fund public schools through a half-mil property tax. Although this funding provided for a state system of public education, funding limitations led to some schools only being open for limited sessions (Roseboom and Wesienburger 1996:143-144; Hipp 1971:17). Roseboom and Wesienburger note "The ideal of state-supported common schools was accepted in Ohio in the 1820's, but serious practical problems remained to be solved before this ideal became a reality" (1996:291).

Two pieces of mid-century legislation were important in providing the foundation for Ohio's public school system going into the twentieth century. The Akron Law of 1847 allowed cities and incorporated towns to establish locally funded school districts. The Two Mile Law of 1851 created county boards of education to manage a series of sub-districts of one-room school houses located at two-mile intervals throughout the townships (Roseboom and Wesienburger 1996:291).

The 1840 census records the presence of one school in Paulding County. A total of twenty-eight scholars were noted by the census taker, all of which were "at public charge." No schools were recorded as present in Van Wert County (UVA 2004:n.p.). One of the earliest schools in Van Wert County was Center School, located in Liberty Township near present day Ohio City; the original log building was

constructed in 1844. This school was replaced with a brick building in 1880. O’Daffer noted that by 1851 five additional log school houses had been constructed in Liberty Township (n.d.:5).

According to McCormick, between 1853 and 1858 “the number of school buildings statewide more than doubled from 5,984 to 12,602” (2001:36). Construction methods and styles varied from district to district, often reflecting local need and preference. Initially many temporary school buildings were constructed of logs, only to be replaced by frame or brick buildings at a later date. One feature found in some early schools was twin doors at the building’s façade; these doors allowed “boys and girls to line up separately to enter the building” (McCormick 2001:38).

The first school in the city of Van Wert was operated out of the county courthouse by teacher E.R. Wells. Another school, taught by Van Wert’s first female teacher Relief Morse, used space provided by a local shopkeeper. In 1853, two two-story frame school buildings were constructed in the city. These buildings located on the east and west ends of town, replaced an earlier log school house (Winter 1917:608). Similarly, the earliest schools in Paulding County also did not have dedicated purpose-built buildings; John D. Carlton instructed pupils “as early as 1834, in an unoccupied cabin” (Winter 1917:530-531). Carlton’s school may have been the one referred to in the 1840 census for Paulding County. Other early teachers in the county operated small schools from their homes. After the Paulding County seat was moved to Paulding, the original courthouse building at Charloe was repurposed for public gatherings, including school classes. The first school house constructed in the new county seat of Paulding was a one-story frame building constructed in 1853. This building was replaced in the 1870s and again in 1884 (Winter 1917:533, 540).

At the turn of the twentieth century, Van Wert County had on average between ten and twelve sub-districts in each township (VWHS 1981:25). However, many of these school houses went through several incarnations during their existence. A school house built for the African American community in Willshire Township, Van Wert County provides an example of rural school house evolution. In 1876, a small frame school house was constructed on a piece of property located near St. Mary’s African Methodist Episcopal Church. However, within four years the building was no longer sufficient to accommodate the needs of the community. The building was sold to Rev. Charlie D. Young, who relocated it across the street and operated a small grocery at the location. A brick school house was constructed on the site in 1880 and remained in use until 1911 when that building was replaced, this time by a new frame school house (Richey 1973:6-7).

This adaptive reuse was a common fate of school houses in the county. O’Daffer cited several examples in his *Pictorial History of Ohio City and Liberty Township Schools*. In 1928, as a result of consolidation, the nine one room school houses in Liberty Township were auctioned and sold. Most were purchased by the landowner upon whose land the buildings were located. Some were dismantled, others

were relocated for reuse either as farm buildings or as residences (O’Daffer n.d.:6). McCormick noted that sometimes “[w]hen one building became insufficient for the number of students, local citizens made the practical choice of erecting an identical building beside [the first]” (2001:38). This method had the added benefit of providing separate accommodations for primary and secondary classes.

Graded classes increasingly became the preferred educational format in the latter nineteenth century. “By the end of the century the one-room school was synonymous with ‘country school’” and was regarded by many as disadvantaged and in need of reform (McCormick 2001:44). In larger urban areas “Union Schools” included two or more of the following graded classes: primary, secondary, intermediate, grammar, and high school; however, smaller town and village schools generally would have at most two or three graded classes (McCormick 2001:50).

At the turn of the twentieth century, Ohio school systems began to evolve in a manner that would eventually lead to consolidation. A 1900 state law that made graded schools compulsory included a clause that allowed the option of centralizing school districts within the townships. In 1914, control of schools was shifted from the townships to the counties. Both pieces of legislation served to encourage the consolidation of rural schools (Roseboom and Wesienburger 1996:294-295). Finally, in 1921, the Bing Act required children between the ages of 6 and 18 to attend schools; not only did this act further drive the move to consolidate schools, it also spurred the creation of rural high schools (Roseboom and Wesienburger 1996:295-296).

Union Township, in Van Wert County, provides an example of the evolution of consolidation of rural schools during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. In Union Township, the Lewellen and Scott schools originally were constructed within a half mile of each other, creating an overlap of services. The schools were initially consolidated in the 1890s. The new school, boasting four classrooms and a library, was located on College Street within the town of Scott. Further consolidation of school districts occurred after the legislative reforms of the early twentieth century. The pace of school consolidation accelerated after World War I. Willshire Township closed all one-room schoolhouses after they consolidated in 1928. The Scott School consolidated with the Haviland School in 1933 forming the Haviland-Scott School. The Scott School building, like many early “Union Schools” did not survive consolidation; the building was shuttered in 1933 and eventually demolished (O’Daffer 1990:93,134). As primary schools merged, a junior college opened in Van Wert. The Griffin Junior College first admitted students on 26 July 1932 and offered two-years of general studies (VWHS 1981: 25).

The Ohio Historic Inventory includes two previously recorded school properties within the current project area. The Hattery School in Hoaglin Township, Van Wert County was described on the OHI form as “a good example and one of the best preserved brick one-room schools” (OHI VAN-30-3).

Built in 1890 by H.K. Vincent on property belonging to Nathaniel Hattery, the brick building was destroyed by a tornado in November of 2002 (OHI VAN-03-3; Kear 2003).

The Marsh Foundation School, located in Ridge Township in Van Wert County, near the corporate limits of the city of Van Wert, was established by provisions in the will of George H. Marsh who left property and a trust valued at over \$4 million to found and maintain a school and home for disadvantaged children. The Marsh Foundation School officially opened in 1923 at the George Marsh Homestead; the campus was expanded over the years to include dormitories, administration buildings, barns and other support buildings (OHI VAN-03-3; O'Daffer 1990:340).

In the 1840s and 1850s the Ohio Assembly passed legislature that at first encouraged, and later mandated the establishment and funding of school libraries. These libraries were publically funded and books were available free of charge to the families of school students. Private libraries and societies were also operating in the region, including a library society in the city of Van Wert overseen by a group of local ladies. In 1893 this society was incorporated as the Van Wert Library Association; individuals contributed \$3 per year for access to the library. A similar society was established at the same time in Paulding County. However, it was not until the turn of the twentieth century that free public libraries were established in either Paulding or Van Wert counties catering to both adults and school children (McCormick 2001:192; Winter 1917:608).

In his will, John Sanford Brumback made provision for the funding and construction of a public library to be built in the city of Van Wert. However, unlike earlier such philanthropic bequests, the Brumback family proposed that the library serve all the citizens of Van Wert County. Creating the Brumback Library, the first such county library in the country, required an act of the Ohio Assembly enabling the mechanisms allowing the county to oversee the institution; such an act was passed in 1898. The Brumback family contributed \$40,000 to build the library; Van Wert County agreed to fund and maintain the library as a free public institution serving the citizens of the county. The Richardsonian Romanesque building, designed by architect D.L. Stine, was dedicated on January 1, 1901. Six weeks later on February 16th the Brumback Library shipped 100 books to the first of nine smaller branch locations throughout the county; eventually 2,800 books would be sent to branch locations during the library's first year of operation. Generally the local branches of the Brumback Library were located in general stores, like the Converse General Store or the Willshire drug store, whose proprietors had agreed to provide space for the branch libraries. The Brumback Library currently has five permanent branch libraries located in Convoy, Middle Point, Ohio City, Willshire and Wren (McCormick 2001:192-194; Winter 1917:608-609).

The Paulding County Carnegie Library was completed in 1914 using funds from a 1912 Carnegie grant; it was the first countywide library in the state to receive such a grant. McCormick argues that the

success of the Brumback Library was influential in persuading Carnegie to “fund a countywide system for a community as small as Paulding” (McCormick 2001:204). Constructed of buff brick and accented with Indiana Bedford limestone, the neo-classical building was designed by Columbus architects Oscar D. Howard and Roy J. Merriam (McCormick 2001:204). Following the pattern established by the Brumback Library system, the Paulding County Carnegie Library system currently has three permanent branch libraries located in Antwerp, Payne, and Oakwood.

Ethnic/Immigration

Several towns in Paulding and Van Wert County were settled on the sites of earlier Indian villages. Perhaps most notable of these in Paulding County is the original county seat of Charloe, reportedly built at the site of a village known as Ockeoxy. The town, located on the Auglaize River, was named for the Ottawa chief Charloe (Winter 1917:532; Howe 1902:381). The town of Van Wert, in Van Wert County was also reportedly constructed on the site of an Indian village. An account recorded in Howe’s 1902 *Historical Collections* tells the story of “an old Indian of the Pottawatomie tribe” who told early settlers about how he and his family “spent forty winters there” (720).

A series of treaties in the 1820s and 1830s resulted in the removal of the majority of Native Americans from Ohio, many to lands located west of the Mississippi River. In the prelude to the Shawnee removal in 1832, the Shawnee chief, Blackhoof expressed his people’s distress at being forced to relocate to a reservation in Kansas. Addressing Indian agent, Samuel Henderson at the Army Fort in Tully Township, near the site of the present day town of Convoy, Chief Blackhoof declared, “We will go anywhere you please if afterwards you leave us alone, but we know from past experience you will keep driving us until we reach the sea on the other side of the Big Mountains and then we must jump off” (O’Daffer 1990:107,112). In 1842, a treaty with the Wyandots at Upper Sandusky resulted in the secession of the last Indian lands in Ohio to the United States government (Weisenburger 1941:34-39).

African Americans settled in Van Wert County at least three decades prior to the onset of the Civil War. In 1837 and 1838, a group of African American settlers arrived in the county. The group, largely composed of former slaves, settled on land in Willshire, Harrison, and Hoaglin townships. Land grant entries in these townships record the settlement of these properties, ranging in size from 40 to 160 acres (Richey 1973:1-2). A second group of African American settlers arrived in the area in the late 1840s. The latter group may have been part of the Randolph Slaves. In 1846, a group of nearly 400 former slaves, freed upon the death of John Randolph of Roanoke, Virginia, attempted to settle on land purchased for them in neighboring Mercer County. Resistance by the white inhabitants of Mercer County resulted in the Randolph Slaves being scattered and forced to settle elsewhere in the region. Local

tradition suggests that some members of the historic African American community in Willshire Township were former Randolph Slaves (Sherwood 1912:46-48; Richey 1973:1).

Periodic immigration continued throughout the years preceding the Civil War; however the numbers for African American populations in both Van Wert and Paulding counties remained low. In 1860, there were 68 African Americans residing in Van Wert County; another 134 African Americans made their home in Paulding County. The African American populations of both counties increased after the war. In 1880, there were 476 African Americans living in Van Wert County; 647 African Americans made their homes in Paulding County. However, the African American communities in Paulding and Van Wert counties experienced a period of decline in the early twentieth century. In 1920, 245 African Americans resided in Van Wert County; the community in Paulding County was only 439. By 1940, those numbers had been reduced by half; the African American population numbered 117 individuals in Van Wert County and 291 individuals in Paulding County (UVA 2004:n.p.).

Of the 8,544 individuals whose nativity was recorded by the 1870 census in Paulding County, 7.6 per cent were foreign born. The largest group came from Germany, followed by Ireland, England and Wales, France, Scotland, and Holland. Of the 15,823 individuals residing in Van Wert County whose nativity was recorded by the 1870 census, 8.3 per cent were foreign born. The majority of these persons came from Germany; persons from England and Wales made up the next most populous group. Other countries of origin for residents of Van Wert County included Ireland, France, Switzerland, Scotland, Holland, Austria, and Sweden and Norway (UVA 2004:n.p.).

Although the number of foreign born persons residing in Paulding County increased slightly between 1870 and 1880, foreign born individuals made up 5.5 percent of the population suggesting a decline in the pace of immigration. By 1900 foreign born individuals accounted for only 3.5 per cent of the population of Paulding County. A similar trend was observed in Van Wert County. In 1880 the number of foreign born individuals in Paulding County accounted for 6 per cent of the county population. By 1900, less than 2 per cent of the residents of Van Wert County were foreign born (UVA 2004:n.p.).

According to Winter, Emerald Township in Paulding County was so named because of the prevalence of Irish immigrants in the area (1917:530). According to the 1870 census immigrants from Ireland were the second largest foreign born group in the county. By 1880 the number of Irish born residents of Paulding County began to fall and continued to decline throughout the first half of the twentieth century; the 1950 census records only one resident of the county as having been born in Ireland. This pattern suggests Irish immigration to the area halted in the latter part of the nineteenth century. A similar pattern of Irish population decline was observed in Van Wert County (UVA 2004:n.p.).

Evidence of Welsh immigration into Van Wert County can be found in the village of Venedocia. Originally settled in 1848, the town and surrounding countryside was predominantly Welsh during the

nineteenth century. Winter noted that early religious services in the community were conducted in the Welsh language, and that an annual Welsh language service commemorating the community's settlement was held "during all the succeeding years" (1917:612). Along with several churches, the community also constructed the "Cambrian Hall" which served as the home for the Venedocia Male Chorus (Winter 1917:612). Both the 1870 and 1880 census provide additional evidence of Welsh immigration into the area (UVA 2004:n.p.). However, between 1890 and 1940 the Welsh born population of the county declined significantly, suggesting a lack of new immigration into the area (UVA 2004:n.p.).

Interstate migration was also occurring during this period. The 1870 census records people from several states including, New York, Virginia and West Virginia, Kentucky, and Maryland settled in Paulding County. However, Pennsylvania provided the largest group of settlers to the county. Interstate migration into Van Wert County included the same group of states. However, there was a much larger percentage of Pennsylvanians settling in Van Wert County compared to those arriving from other states (UVA 2004:n.p.).

The trends in interstate migration remained relatively unchanged between 1870 and 1880, with the exception of two interesting additions. The 1880 census provides evidence of eastern migration from Indiana and Michigan into both Paulding and Van Wert counties. In fact, people born in Indiana were the largest group in Paulding County, and were second only to individuals born in Pennsylvania in Van Wert County (UVA 2004:n.p.). The higher numbers of individuals from Pennsylvania combined with the relatively high number of German immigrants may indicate the movement of Pennsylvania Germans into the region during this period.

Associated Resources. The Ohio Historic Inventory includes one previously recorded resource, a Pennsylvania German bank barn, located within the current project area in Hoaglin Township, Van Wert County. The George Carlo Bank Barn is a Pennsylvania barn with a forebay, however, it is unclear if the building has an open or posted forebay. At the time it was surveyed, the George Carlo Bank Barn retained its original slate roof, the design of which included the farm's name, owner's name, and construction date, "Fountain Farm, F. Carlo, 1892" (OHI VAN-29-3). Although this is an agricultural building type that can be associated with German immigrants, it is unclear whether this structure is associated with first generation immigrants or with later migrants from Pennsylvania.

The Ohio Historic Inventory records the presence of three dwellings constructed by first generation settlers to the region located within the current project area. The earliest, located in Van Wert County, in the city of Van Wert is the Chester Hamrick/Zimmerman residence. Jacob Zimmerman was among the earliest settlers in the area, arriving in Van Wert in 1839. The Chester Hamrick/Zimmerman residence is a one-and-a-half-story brick dwelling constructed circa 1860. While the Chester Hamrick/Zimmerman residence does not represent the first dwelling constructed by Zimmerman, this

early brick residence is an example of the types of permanent houses constructed by these early settlers once they established themselves in the community (OHI VAN-65-7).

Paulding County was settled relatively late, as compared to Van Wert County, consequently examples of first generation settlement in Paulding County survived into the twentieth century. The Ohio Historic Inventory records the presence of two such dwellings within the current project area. The Alfred & Henry Sherer Log House was constructed circa 1880 in Paulding County, near the town of Haviland. The one-and-a-half-story log house had half-lap corners; unfinished timber was used to frame the loft. Constructed relatively late, this log dwelling provides an example of typical first generation temporary housing in the region. At the time of the 1977 survey, the building was described as being in poor condition, and deemed to be endangered (OHI PAU-4-9).

The Roy Green Plank House is another example of a first generation temporary dwelling located in Paulding County, in the vicinity of the town of Haviland. Constructed circa 1890 by David Green, the Roy Green Plank House served as the Green family home until the construction of a permanent farmhouse in 1912. The one-and-a-half-story plank house included a living room and kitchen on the first floor, and a sleeping loft. Access to the loft was gained by a ladder. The building's roof was constructed of barrel staves, covered by tin (OHI PAU-3-9). This may suggest that the Green family was associated with the stave industry in Paulding County. In 1902, Howe described much of the early population of Paulding County as living "with their families in hoop shanties or log cabins in the woods" (380). At the time it was surveyed in 1977, the Roy Green Plank House was described as being in poor condition with its interior in ruins, and was deemed to be endangered (OHI PAU-3-9).

Manufacturing/Industrial

The earliest industrial pursuit in Van Wert County coincided with the county's first settler, Captain James Riley. After purchasing land in the new county, Riley constructed a small mill on his property in Willshire. The first sawmill was established in Van Wert by Riley's son, James Watson Riley. Other businesses quickly followed including "a grist mill...run by water power." Winter describes the first sawmills as being "upright, or 'muley' type, and it was some time before the circular saw took their place" (Winter 1917:600;605). Indicative of the crossroads town that it was, Van Wert's early industries and manufacturers were largely related to transportation needs including a wagon shop founded in 1842 by Abel R. Strother and a wheelwright shop operated by Isaiah and Joshua Shaffer (Winter 1917:606). In 1846, Van Wert was identified with having one grist mill and two saw mills (Howe 1902:720).

The majority of Paulding's industries were located along the canal system as that was the most convenient means of transporting early goods. For example, Frederick Ruffner erected a "flouring-mill there in 1865 which was run by water power furnished by the canal." Junction was also the location of an

earlier sawmill operated by William K. Daggett. Another example is Paulding County's first mentioned grist mill was built in 1834 by Pierce Evans on the Little Auglaize River. The main industry in Paulding County was timbering and related businesses due to the massive forests that covered the land. Winter listed the top timber related businesses as "making staves, railroad ties, and the chopping of cord wood" (Winter 1917:530-531; 538).

Paulding County also had several stone quarries in operation during the mid-nineteenth century. Most of the quarries lacked the necessary equipment to crush stone and thus produced large stone blocks. A quarry in Charloe operated from 1855 to 1860, while Crowe Quarry in Washington Township began in 1892 or 1893. Several other quarries existed in Paulding County during the early twentieth century including: the "double quarries" and "Shafer's Riffles (Hipp 1971:49-51).

Van Wert and Paulding counties experienced a significant increase in manufacturing and industry during the late 1800s as a result of improved transportation and enhancements to the Black Swamp area. With an expansive transportation network in place, new industry arrived in Van Wert County. By 1888, manufacturers in the town of Van Wert employed 1,300 out of a population of 5,160. Industries included: Van Wert Manufacturing Company which produced men's overalls; Western Ohio Bottling Company; and the Anderson Piano Company, Van Wert's leading manufacturer in 1900. In 1894, the stave mill in Van Wert was the largest in Ohio with 120 employees. (O'Daffer 1990:125; 282-301).

Tile mills appeared during the 1880s in Paulding County in order to provide supplies for lining drainage ditches. As Hipp explained, "the extremely flat terrain, the dense forests, and the clay-type subsoil of the land...made drainage very difficult and a number one problem for the early settlers...a satisfactory pursuit of agriculture was out of the question." In 1883 a tile mill was established near Grover Hill by Willard E. Eaton and Bennet W. Longworth. The mill, comprised of "an ending shed, measuring 18 x 36 feet, a drying shed, 18 x 164 feet, and a kiln, 10 feet in height and measuring 9 ½ x 20 feet, produced approximately 8,000 tiles per day and was four acres in size. Another mill constructed near present-day Haviland produced 6,000 tiles per day using a "forty horsepower steam engine." This mill, operated by Thaddeus Lynn Goble, contained two buildings: an 18 x 40 foot building and a 20 x 80 foot building. The H.E. Stahl and Sons Tile Mill operated in Grover Hill from the late nineteenth century until 1929 (Hipp 1971:45-47; Wilhelm 1984:79-80).

When timbering for ship building materials ended during the 1880s, hoop and stave operations began to thrive in both counties. Stave factories developed during this period in Paulding County included operations in Latty, Grover Hill, and Broughton. In 1880, John F.R. Evans and A.B. Holcombe opened a large stave and hoop mill in Paulding. The mill employed almost 100 men and produced an average of 30,000 hoops daily. Most hoop making took place in "hoop shanties." As explained by Hipp, "two or three men would either buy or be given permission by the landowner to remove hoop poles from

which the hoops were made. If a shanty was not built in the woods, many times the poles were brought to a small building in a nearby village and there made into hoops” (1971:22). The Lenhart Stave and Cooperage Company Sawmills were also prevalent, producing lumber for frame construction that replaced log buildings. Most of the sawmills provided “rough” lumber rather than “finished” due to the lack of planing equipment. Other industries during this period included smelting iron ore. Two primary blast furnaces included one in Antwerp and one in Paulding (Hipp 1971:22; Winter 1917:538).

According to the 1880 U.S. Census of Population, there were 51 manufacturing establishments in Paulding County and 92 in Van Wert County. The 1890 census recorded a rise in manufacturing in Paulding County, with 83 reporting establishments; manufacturing establishments in Van Wert County slightly dropped to 82. By 1900, both counties saw an increase in manufacturing establishments, with 169 in Paulding County and 170 in Van Wert County (UVA 2004:n.p.). The majority of the project area in both counties, however, is cropland. Today, the area primarily consists of soy and corn fields, with the major exception being the town of Van Wert and other communities such as Convoy, Scott, and Grover Hill. Approximately one percent of Van Wert County and one percent of Paulding County are considered municipal (Ohio History Central, “Van Wert County,” 2009:n.p.; Ohio History Central, “Paulding County,” 2009:n.p.).

Grover Hill still had an operating lumber mill during the mid-twentieth century. The Grover Hill Lumber Company was organized by Forest P. Sherman and two other unnamed partners in 1945 and operated through 1962. By 1968 Latty Township was the location of the only sawmill as timber had become scarce in the county (Hipp 1971:27).

Associated Resources. Three industrial and manufacturing buildings have been previously identified within the project area. The Van Wert Foundry and Machine Company constructed an extensive brick building in 1871-72; the foundry was converted into a cannery in 1900 (OHI VAN-275-7). The Deisel-Wemmer Gilbert Factory manufactured cigars in a brick building erected in 1905 (OHI-VAN-294-7). The E.J. Evans building is described on the Ohio Historic Inventory as “a fine old two story brick mill building” (OHI VAN-10-7). Constructed circa 1870-72, the building was originally a flour and feed mill operated first by W.L. Scott and later by Frank Gleason. In 1902, E.J. Evans purchased the building; Evans operated a wholesale grocery at the location during the early and mid twentieth century. The Dull Lumber Company acquired the building in the late 1970s as a storage facility (OHI VAN-10-7).

Political/Social Welfare

The political and social development of Van Wert and Paulding counties was partially influenced by the organized development of the landscape of Northwest Ohio. The Land Ordinance of 1785 divided the Northwest Territory into “townships six miles square ‘by lines running due north and south, and

others crossing these at right angles” (Knepper 2003:54). Each township was further subdivided into smaller sections and numbered sequentially; section number sixteen was delegated for public education usage. This initial land pattern, as passed by Congress, was largely written by Thomas Jefferson. As settlers moved into the townships, the grid pattern was again utilized for planning towns and cities. The commissioners in New York laid out the city on a perfect grid disregarding any natural features. The “Commissioners’ Plan for New York of 1811” was the basis for future city planning in most of the Northwest Territory (Roth 1980: 83). This grid pattern is evident in Paulding and Van Wert Counties on a larger scale and within the individual towns like Van Wert and Grover Hill (Griffing 1886; Morrow 1905).

Paulding County was created by an act of legislature in 1820; however judicial activities for the county were conducted in nearby Williams County for nearly twenty years. In 1839, Paulding County’s first county seat was established at New Rochester. The seat was relocated a year later to Charloe, where it remained until 1851. The first courthouse for Paulding County was constructed in Charloe; the two-story brick building was utilized for public gatherings after the county seat was relocated to Paulding in 1851. The second county courthouse, constructed in 1852, burned in 1868. A third building served as a temporary courthouse until construction of the current courthouse was built in 1886 (Winter 1917:532-533). The Romanesque courthouse was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.

Like Paulding County, Van Wert County was organized in 1820, but did not have its own independent government until much later. In 1835, a temporary county seat was established at Willshire and the first meeting of county commissioners was held in that town. The next commissioners meeting was held two years later in 1837 (Winter 1917:602). A year later Willshire hosted the first term of the Court of Common Pleas of Van Wert County (Winter 1917:603). The county seat was relocated to Van Wert the following year. Initially, the bulk of county business was conducted out of private homes, as county officers performed their duties from their residences (Winter 1917:604). The National Register listed, Van Wert County Courthouse was constructed in 1874-76. The architectural firm of T.J Tolan and Sons, of Fort Wayne, Indiana designed the Second Empire building. The building possesses two particularly noteworthy features, a zinc statue of Justice and the central clock tower (NR Nomination Form).

The first jail constructed in Paulding County was built in Charloe in 1842. The brick structure was no longer extant by the early twentieth century (Winter 1917:534). In the early 1850s a new jail was constructed in the new county seat of Paulding; the rough hewn log structure remained in use until it was replaced in 1874 (Winter 1917:534). Constructed in 1838, the first jail in Van Wert was constructed of hewed logs by contractor, Jesse King of Mercer County; although contracted for \$483, the county

commissioners deducted \$35 from King's fee upon completion of the project (Gilliland 1991:230; Winter 1917:604-605).

Township municipal buildings developed at a different pace, depending on the population of the township. Latty Township, Paulding County was first settled in 1853; Edward L. Himmel was the first settler to build a cabin in the township. In 1856, nine votes were cast during the first election in Latty Township; the election was held in a private home. The pace of settlement remained slow in Latty Township for the next twenty years; the township did not have a post office until 1873 (Winter 1917:530).

Prior to the construction of the city's first purpose-built post office in 1915, the Van Wert post office was housed in several locations. In 1872, the Post Office was located in the Arcade Block, a series of commercial buildings Main Street constructed by Simon Swineford in 1866/1867 (OHI VAN-296-7). In 1886, the Post Office operated in the basement of a commercial building on South Washington Street (OHI VAN-282-7). During the early twentieth century, it moved to the Humphrey-Hughes-Rump building located on East Main Street. Constructed in 1899, after the original building was destroyed by fire, the Humphrey-Hughes-Rump building was a multi-purpose commercial structure that also housed a grocery, business and offices, and an insurance agent (OHI VAN-290-7).

The National Register eligible, Van Wert Post Office, is located on the corner of Central Avenue and Market Street. Constructed in 1915, the Georgian Revival building was designed by the Architectural Division of the U.S. Treasury Department. The Ohio Historic Inventory (OHI) notes the building was built "on the former site of an old hotel, butcher shop, and marble shop" (OHI VAN-82-7). The 1915 Post Office remained in use until 1984, when operations were moved to a new Post Office building located on Main Street. The city of Van Wert purchased the 1915 building for use as offices (O'Daffer 1990:345).

Public health and safety services developed out of private enterprises during the nineteenth and early twentieth century in Van Wert. Two early hospitals were previously recorded within the current project area. The first, located on North Jefferson Street, was known as First Emergency Hospital. Dr. Georgiana Clara Glenn independently operated First Emergency Hospital from 1848-1862 (O'Daffer 1990:324). The second hospital was operated by Dr. Cecil A. Files. Constructed in 1911, the two-story brick building was the first purpose built home of Van Wert County Hospital (OHI VAN-277-7; O'Daffer 1990:324). In 1960, a new 108 bed Van Wert County Hospital building was opened (O'Daffer 1990:324). In 1872, the Van Wert Fire Company was organized to serve the citizens of Van Wert (Gilliland 1991:240).

Forming and maintaining social connections was important to the residents of Van Wert and Paulding counties. As a consequence they formed several social organizations to meet their needs. Often

these institutions evolved to provide social services as well as to maintain social connections. The first Grange society in Van Wert County was organized in 1873. The Grange quickly evolved beyond a society to study the science of agriculture into an active and influential political and social organization. The Van Wert County Grange was active in promoting farmer's interests, including working towards road improvements in the county (Winter 1917:604).

The original offices of the Van Wert Young Men's Christian Organization (YMCA) are located in downtown Van Wert, near the courthouse. The two-story brick building is distinguished by a rounded corner, with a recessed doorway. Constructed circa 1880, the building served as the offices for the YMCA during the early part of the twentieth century, it later housed the *Van Wert Times*. At the time the building was surveyed in 1979, it served as the Van Wert County Superintendent's office (OHI VAN-81-7). The Van Wert Young Women's Christian Organization (YWCA) was organized shortly after the YMCA. Van Wert resident and local philanthropist, George Marsh, felt it was important for young women to have a place of their own. Marsh's daughter also was active in the early years of the organization (O'Daffer 1990:311).

Several previously identified buildings historically associated with fraternal organizations are located in Van Wert, within the current project area. Along with providing places for recreational gatherings, these organizations were often influential in the city's social and political development. The Home Guard Temple, located on Main Street in Van Wert, was constructed in 1905 by the Home Guard Insurance Company. The Lodge Room on the first floor served as a community center until the 1920s, hosting events including dances and teas, as well as lodge meetings (OHI VAN-293-7). The J.C. Penny & Company Building, located on Main Street, is the home of the Masonic Lodge. The building, constructed in 1912 after fire destroyed the original 1907 building, bears the device of the Masonic Lodge, which occupies the upper floors (OHI VAN-284-7). The Kauke and McCurdy Block was the first commercial block constructed in Van Wert. Completed in 1862, the Italianate building housed both the Masonic Lodge and the Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) (OHI VAN-289-7).

Religion/Ecclesiastical Group

Early religious services in western Ohio often were conducted by circuit riders in private homes. As explained by Roseboom and Weisenburger, this practice continued "for as long as from one to three decades before it was found possible or expedient to build meetinghouses" (1996:138). The earliest support for this type of religious service is Howe's account of missionaries, mostly Methodist, preaching at Captain James Riley's residence in Willshire, Van Wert County on their way to Fort Wayne, Indiana (1902:725). Based on Riley's founding Willshire in 1821 and his death in 1840, it can be inferred that religious services were available early in the establishment of Van Wert County (Winter 1917:600).

Concurrently, Reverend J.J. Hill, a Methodist, was preaching on the St. Mary's Circuit in Brown Township, Paulding County; the circuit covered Mercer, Van Wert, and Paulding counties, a span of 300 miles and lasting 3-4 weeks (Winter 1917:537; Scranton 1907:210). The circuit riders provided a needed service while minimizing the financial burden on larger congregations located in eastern cities such as Cincinnati. In addition to spreading the Gospel, the riders supplied the settlers with political news and social gatherings (Roseboom and Weisenburger 1996:139). The first Methodist Episcopal class in Van Wert was held in 1840; six members gathered and a few "called themselves exhorters and preached occasionally." Under John S. Shaw's leadership, a Methodist society converged at the Village of Paulding. In 1841, the earliest Sunday school in Paulding County was established at Charloe by C.B. West. The first "society...with regular preaching" met at Junction within Paulding County in 1849 (Winter 1917:607; 531; 537). These early Bible and Sunday schools served as an outlet for the spiritually-inclined to gather without the presence of an ordained minister.

As the counties' population increased, the membership of several Sunday schools grew and the need arose for larger gathering places. The Methodist Episcopalian congregation met in the Van Wert County Courthouse led by Reverend John Graham. In 1847, James H. Long began construction of a frame church for the Methodists. The finished church was not plastered and rough cut boards were used for seating. As was the norm, the church was shared among several religious denominations until those groups could build their own churches (Winter 1917:607). For example, the First Presbyterian Church in Van Wert County was organized with twelve members in 1843. The Presbyterian congregation utilized the Methodist's church for their services, despite the fact that they were without a regular preacher until the arrival of Reverend Richard Graham in 1851 (Winter 1917:608). By 1850, Van Wert County had five churches that accommodated 1,700 people while the census did not record any churches in Paulding County. The three Methodist churches in Van Wert had a total property value of \$1,100, evidence of their rising importance in the county. The other two churches were Baptist and Lutheran (UVA 2004:n.p.). The Presbyterian Church does not appear in the 1850 census suggesting the Presbyterians did not have a separate building at this time. Additionally, there may be other denominations in Van Wert and Paulding Counties that do not appear on the 1850 census for the same reason.

The African American communities in Van Wert County began to organize their own religious societies during the 1840s as well. St. Mary's African Methodist Episcopal Church first assembled in Henry Taylor's home in 1843 under the guidance of Reverend William Herron. Membership rapidly increased from the original six members and in 1850, a log chapel was constructed; later in 1872 a \$600 frame church located east of Wren replaced the older structure (Richey 1973:2-3).

Roman Catholicism was slow to evolve in western Ohio, but with the steady migration of Irish and German immigrants during the 1840s and 1850s that began to change. Delphos, in Van Wert County,

provided Catholic services as early as 1846 and a log chapel was erected in 1851 (Howe 1902:725). The town of Glenmore, in Van Wert County, listed a Catholic church among its eleven buildings in 1867 (O'Daffer 1990:103). Members of the Baptist faith appear in the record for Van Wert County in 1847. In three years, the membership grew from four to twelve with Elder J.G. Volkenburg as the pastor. The Baptist Church officially organized in 1853 and the first regular pastor was Reverend D.D. Johnson. Although the Baptists had a regular pastor, religious services continued to be held in members' homes and schoolhouses for over twenty years. They constructed their first church in the west part of Van Wert City in an old schoolhouse (Winter 1917:608).

An emergence of a new denomination took place in Paulding County during the late 1840s. At Clark's Corners in 1846, a small gathering of members of the United Brethren in Christ converged in an old log cabin and in the following year nine members met at McCormick's Corners. As necessitated by these meetings, a United Brethren society was organized in 1850 at the house of Deliverance Brown. According to Winter, Reverend Abram Shingledecker was the minister of the United Brethren and organized several churches including one in Blue Creek Township (1917: 538). However, the 1870 Census did not reveal any other denomination in Paulding County besides the Methodist religion. Yet by 1870, the United Brethren in Christ had four organizations and an aggregate congregation of 1,000 in Paulding County and none in Van Wert County (UVA 2004:n.p.). The lack of established churches could explain the absence of United Brethren in Christ in the Census records as explained in the "History of the United Brethren,"

An Ohio conference, after 40 years, had just one church building. Meetings were held in homes, barns, schools, or outdoors. The concern was outreach, not membership and pretty buildings. But as more congregations erected buildings, the *Discipline* addressed the matter in 1837. "Let all our meeting houses be built plainly and neatly, with free seats, and not more expensive than necessary." Churches couldn't build until they'd raised two-thirds of the cost (Church of the United Brethren in Christ, U.S.A. n.d.).

From 1850 to 1860 the population in both counties more than doubled. This boom encouraged rapid growth in religious services. Paulding County, with half the population as Van Wert County, had two Methodist churches by the end of the decade. Van Wert County, in comparison, had seventeen churches, nine of which were Methodist. The prevalence of Methodist churches in these two counties was echoed throughout the state of Ohio as noted by Roseboom (1968:215). However, the church property value in Paulding County was \$3,200 while the Methodist's property value in Van Wert County was \$3,300; additionally there was only a 750 person difference between the counties in aggregate congregations (UVA 2004:n.p.). Paulding County was quickly showing a trend in favor of Methodism in part due to the massive migration of German immigrants who favored the Wesleyan teachings of the Methodist, Lutheran, and Evangelical religions (Roseboom and Weisenburger 1996:139). The Methodist

society in Paulding attracted more followers and by 1861, the town was the head of its own circuit and later became a station in 1887. At the same time, St. Paul's Church in Payne of Paulding County was formed by Reverend John Brakefield; after using the Wiltsie schoolhouse for several years, St. Paul's Church was dedicated in 1885 (Winter 1917:537).

The Bethel Christian Church organized in 1858 in an Auglaize Township schoolhouse in Paulding County. Elders, John Gillespie and John Bushong, with fourteen members constructed a small "hewed log church." The log church was used for several years until the erection of a frame church. Also in Paulding County, the Flat Rock Society, of the same denomination, was organized in 1877 with fifteen members (Winter 1917:537-538).

Similar to other parts of Ohio, Van Wert County saw an increase in Catholic population. Cincinnati had finished building a Roman Catholic church that cost \$120,000 (Roseboom and Weisenburger 1996:139). The Roman Catholics initiated a mission from Delphos to Van Wert City in 1867. A small frame building was dedicated for use as a temporary chapel, but the congregation quickly outgrew the chapel. A brick church was constructed in 1874 and used until 1915 when a "new church of the Mission type was completed" (Winter 1917:608).

The Second Zion Baptist Church, the second African American church, was located in Van Wert County near the African American Methodist Episcopal Church. A year after the church formed in 1883, a building was constructed on a quarter-acre for religious services. Both churches shared the same cemetery, which includes the resting place of many African American Civil War veterans (Richey 1973:4-5).

Throughout the third quarter of the nineteenth century religious communities continued to expand in both counties. By 1870, Van Wert County increased its religious organizations by ten and Paulding County increased by eleven. According to the census, there were eleven edifices in Paulding County and twenty-six edifices in Van Wert County. Methodists continued to lead in Van Wert County with nine formal organizations which could accommodate 2,300 members. The Lutheran church, possibly due to the German immigrants, increased its "sittings" to 1,600 and eight organizations. Other Van Wert denominations included four Baptist, four Presbyterian, one Roman Catholic, and one "Christian Organization" (UVA 2004:n.p.). The United Brethren in Christ was the leading denomination in Paulding County with four organizations accommodating 1,000 members. Five "Christian Organizations," unspecified religious affiliations, offered room for 650 citizens while two Methodist organizations and two Roman Catholic organizations could preach to 800 and 500 followers respectively (UVA 2004:n.p.). The 1886 Atlas of Van Wert County depicted nine churches in the town of Van Wert: these accommodated congregations for the Evangelical, Dutch, Catholic, Friends, Zion Baptist, Lutheran (2 congregations), Baptist, and First Presbyterian denominations. According to the *Atlas of Van Wert*

County, Convoy had four churches each of a different denomination: Catholic, Baptist, Methodist Episcopal, and Lutheran (Griffing 1886). The *Atlas and Directory of Paulding County* identified three churches in Grover Hill: the Church of Christ, Methodist Episcopal Church and Parsonage, and the United Reformed Church (Morrow 1905).

Associated Resources. The Ohio Historic Inventory includes two previously identified religious properties within the project area: The First United Methodist Church and the Grand Victory Church. The First United Methodist Church was constructed in 1877 in Van Wert. The large brick Gothic styled church was designed by the architects of the county courthouse, T.J. Tolan & Sons. James Marble purchased the lots and “pledged 1/10 of the cost of the new church” as long as it did not exceed \$30,000. Two additions were added to the church, the first in 1906 and the second in 1928. Another large brick church was constructed in Hoaglin Township, Van Wert County in 1913, Grand Victory Church of the Evangelical Association. According to the OHI Form, the church has “considerable brick relief ornament” as well as a prominent bell tower complete with battlements (OHI VAN-15-7; VAN-78-3). The construction and details of the churches indicate the affluence of their parishioners and the importance of religion within the community.

Transportation/Communication

Transportation. Early transportation routes in northwestern Ohio consisted of Indian trails; many settlers followed river beds, and smaller tributaries to the interior of current-day Paulding and Van Wert Counties. The first major effort in improving transportation within the area of northwest Ohio was the creation of a canal system. In 1845, the Miami and Erie Canal was completed through western Ohio; the portion through Paulding County was originally known as the Miami Extension Canal. The canal measured 50 feet wide and five feet deep; it traveled through the community of Junction northeast of Paulding. In Van Wert County, the Miami and Erie Canal passed through the town of Delphos, east of Van Wert, the establishment of these canals assisted farmers in transporting their crops to outside markets (O’Daffer 1990:346-349).

Another canal, the Wabash and Erie also traveled through Junction in Paulding County. The meeting of the Miami Extension and the Wabash and Erie resulted in the name Junction. The Wabash and Erie continued westward from Junction through northern Paulding County to Indiana. The introduction of canals caused a spike in industries in Paulding and Van Wert counties, such as timbering. Settlers suddenly had the opportunity to ship their goods for less money and could reach more distant markets. As a result, timbering thrived and cordwood, staves, and railroad ties became commodities that could be produced and transported to Toledo or other towns via the canal system. In 1849, the state

legislature renamed the entire canal system in the area, calling it the Miami and Erie Canal (Ohio History Central, “Miami and Erie Canal,” 2009:n.p.; Hipp 1971:268, 20).

With the arrival of rail transportation in the 1850s, the canal system began a steady decline. The Miami and Erie Canal was unable to compete with the quicker and more reliable rail service. Enmeshed in debt, the canal system ended operations in the late 1800s (Hagerty et al 1905:100-105). The last canal boat recorded in Delphos was the *Margurite* with its last run on 14 August 1906 (O’Daffer 1990:349).

Several railroads were laid in Ohio during the 1850s including the Ohio and Indiana Railroad, later known as the “Pittsburg, Fort Wayne and Chicago” Railroad, which connected towns in Van Wert County (Gilliland 1991:38). The Toledo, Wabash & Western was the first railroad to enter Paulding County. It passed north of the project area through Cecil and Antwerp; construction of the railroad line was finished in 1855. An additional railroad was constructed from Cecil to Paulding in 1880; the Paulding & Cecil Railroad traveled only seven miles. In 1881, the New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad bisected the county travelling from Oakwood through Broughton, Latty, Briceton, and Payne then onto Indiana (Budd 1882:n.p.).

Interurban rails were constructed in the 1890s linking Van Wert County communities to larger cities in Ohio. The Ohio Electric Line was composed of smaller lines which connected Toledo, Fort Wayne, Lima, and Van Wert. The Lima and Toledo Traction Company owned 65 miles of tracks including the Fort Wayne, Van Wert and Lima Traction Line. The rail line ran through downtown Van Wert along Main Street with six cars operating six days of the week. New railroads entered the county during this same period including the Clover Leaf Railroad and the Cincinnati Northern – New York Central Railway; both ran through Ohio City. Other lines in the area included: the Chicago and Atlantic (Erie) Railroad; Cincinnati, Jackson, and Mackinaw Railroad; and the Pennsylvania Railroad (O’Daffer 1990:384). A railroad depot was constructed in the late nineteenth century by the Pennsylvania Railroad in Van Wert. According David Walker, the brick station was adorned with shingle gables (OHI VAN-274-7).

With the advent of automobiles, the transportation systems in both counties continued to evolve. The trolleys and railroads began a slow decline with the last trolley serving Van Wert on 30 June 1932; the rails were removed in 1979. The Lima and Toledo Line Company never recovered after three fatal head-on collisions in 1935 and another fatal accident the following year when a car jumped the tracks. The last Pennsylvania Railroad steam engine traveled through Van Wert on 17 June 1947 (O’Daffer 1990: 356-367).

Today, the majority of roads within the rural portions of the project area follow the grid pattern of townships. Major state routes through the area include US Route 30, which passes north of Van Wert and east-west through the southern part of the project area. US Route 224 travels around the east side of Van

Wert, then northeast through the project area. US Route 127 bisects Van Wert traveling north-south, then travels north through the project area.

Communication. The *Van Wert Patriot* was Van Wert County's first newspaper; George E. Burson began publication of the paper in 1844. William Moneysmith's *Bugle* was the second source of news in the county published shortly after the *Patriot*. The *Bugle* changed names several times over the ensuing decades becoming the *National American* which changed to the *Van Wert Bulletin* in 1859. Other newspapers at this time included: the *Watchman*, *Van Wert Times*, the *Press* (1874), and the *Van Wert Republican* (1883) by Milton B. Evers (Winter 1917:606-607). Today, Van Wert County publishes *Lima News*, *Van Wert Independent*, and the *Times Bulletin*. The *Times Bulletin* is the contemporary paper evolved from the 1844 *Bugle*. Three previously identified historic buildings in Van Wert County were once associated with the town's newspaper business. Before its merger with the *Van Wert Bulletin*, the *Van Wert Times* was run in a circa 1880 brick building located on West Court Street (OHI VAN 81-7). In 1875, the *Van Wert Bulletin* operated in an Italianate brick building built in 1868 on Main Street (OHI VAN-263-7). Following the merger of the *Times* and *Bulletin*, the printing and publication of the *Van Wert Times-Bulletin* was moved to an older brick building on Market Street (OHI VAN-273-7).

Paulding County's first newspaper, *The Age of Progress*, was published in Paulding in 1853 by P.W. Hardesty. The paper changed names and ownership over the next few years before finally ending publication altogether in the late 1850s. Subsequent newspapers in Paulding County included the *Paulding Independent* (1859), the *Paulding Press*, *Rural Ohioan*, and the *Paulding Plain Dealer* (1876). Paulding County was never at a loss for news during the nineteenth century as a succession of journals and newspapers were sold, merged, or founded. The *Paulding Register*, first printed in 1876, merged with the *Paulding Democrat* and continued publication for several years. Antwerp was home to the *Antwerp Banner* (1879), *Antwerp Standard*, *Antwerp Argus*. The small town of Scott, Payne, and Hicksville also had their own community newspapers during the 1880s and 1890s (Winter 1917:536-7). Today, the *Paulding County Press* is the only paper in publication.