Characteristics of rural settlement in the corn belt of the North American mid-west

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THE CORN BELT
TYPES OF FARMING SUBREGIONS

A CATTLE FEEDING & HOGS
- C Missouri R Valley
- E Iowa - W Illinois

B CASH CORN, OATS, SOYBEANS
- C Iowa
- E C Illinois

C HOGS & SOFT WINTER WHEAT
- C Indiana - SW Ohio
- Wabash & lower Ohio R Valleys

D LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, SOYBEAN, CASH GRAIN
- NW Ohio - N.E Indiana

E HOGS & DAIRY
- N.E Iowa - N.W Illinois - SW Wisconsin

F LIVESTOCK & CASH GRAIN
- NW corn-livestock transition
- SW corn-hard winter wheat transition
- W Corn Belt fringe
- NW Corn Belt fringe
- N Iowa - SW Minnesota

G LIVESTOCK, CASH GRAIN & DAIRY

H LIVESTOCK & PASTURE
- S Iowa - N Missouri - WC Illinois
- NW Indiana SW Michigan

Shaded areas represent Corn Belt based on Dept of Agric. regionalization. Thick line boundary represents Corn Belt based on Bureau of Census regions.

MILES

ALBERS EQUAL-AREA

0 100 200 300
THE WESTERN CORN BELT

- Iowa
- Nebraska
- South Dakota
- Kansas
- Missouri
- Colorado

Key cities:
- Omaha
- Kansas City
- Sioux City
- Sioux Falls

Scale:
- 0 50 100 150 miles
MAIN INDIAN LAND CESSIONS IN THE EAST PART OF THE OLD NORTH-WEST
TOWNSHIP & RANGE SURVEY SYSTEM

TOWNHIPS & RANGES

NUMBERING OF SECTIONS

A TOWNSHIP 6 x 6 Miles

A SECTION 1 x 1 Mile

BASE LINE

1
2
3
0 1 2 3
miles

PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN

SHATTER ZONE

RANGE LINE

6 MILES

TOWNSHIP LINE

7

36
THE MAIN SURVEY AREAS - OHIO

6 MILE SQUARE TOWNSHIPS

5 MILE SQUARE TOWNSHIPS

CONNECTICUT WESTERN RESERVE
1800
1796
1796-1800

U.S. MILITARY DISTRICT
1796

OHIO COMPANY LAND
1788

VIRGINIA MILITARY DISTRICT
1784-90

SYMMES MIAMI PURCHASE
1786

MINOR CIVIL DIVISIONS

NO PRIOR SURVEY - HAPHAZARD SETTLEMENT
FARM SETTLEMENT

MODEL ARRANGEMENT with QUARTER-SECTION FARMS

TYPICAL ARRANGEMENT with some irregular land units and roads
STATUS OF TOPOGRAPHIC MAPPING IN THE CORN BELT 1963
Inclusive of Several Scales All Maps Show Individual Settlement Features

not mapped
before 1900
1900-1939
1940-1949
since 1950

PERIOD WHEN LAST MAPPED

ALBERS EQUAL-AREA

MILES
RURAL SETTLEMENT IN SELECTED SECTIONS OF SOUTH DAKOTA - THE WESTERN CORN BELT BORDER (from 1959 highway maps)
DENSITY AND SHAPE OF COUNTY ROAD NETS

- Counties in S.Dak., Nebr
- Kans.
- Illinois, Missouri
- Iowa, Minn
- Ind., Mich

Western counties settled after 1860

Counties, mainly in central prairies, settled between 1830-60

Southern and eastern counties settled before 1830

No. Farmhouses per Mile

Section line roads/other roads (miles)
FORMS OF SCATTERING

a. Uniform

b. Random

c. Near Agglomeration

EACH RECTANGLE CONTAINS 22 HOUSES (44 sq. m.)

MILE

Regular Corn Belt

----- FARM BOUNDARY
HEXAGONAL PATTERN MAPS

THAYER Co.

LIVINGSTON Co.

ADAIR Co.

HENRY Co.

See text for description
POSİTİONS OF WİND-BREAKS

Shadıng represents area of natural forest vegetation

SELECTED COUNTIES

NB The scale for belts sheltering only in some directions (i.e. one quadrant or one direction) is two times that for all-round belts
FRONTIER HOUSES

A SINGLE PEN LOG CABIN

A DOUBLE PEN LOG CABIN WITH DOG-TROT

A SOD HOUSE
A PRAIRIE TEE HOUSE
(Hamilton Co Iowa.)

A RECTANGULAR HOUSE
(Adair Co. Missouri.)
A PRAIRIE SQUARE HOUSE
(with attic)
(Chickasaw Co Iowa)
A CHALET-TYPE HOUSE
(Hamilton Co. Iowa)

A SHOTGUN-TYPE HOUSE
(Sullivan Co. Indiana)
A RANCH - TYPE BUNGALOW
(Monroe Co Indiana.)

A STANDARD-STYLE BUNGALOW (Monroe Co Indiana.)
A CELLAR HOUSE (Henry Co Indiana)

A TRAILER HOUSE (Monroe Co Indiana)
STANDARD METROPOLITAN AREAS & THEIR FRINGE COUNTIES

SMA
Counties adjacent to SMA
Fringe overlap
Corn Belt Boundary

MILES

ALBERS EQUAL-AREA
ROAD NETWORK, HENRY COUNTY, INDIANA

- County road
- Major highway

0 1 2 3 MILES

Newcastle
LANDHOLDINGS
IN
DORA TOWNSHIP
MOULTRIE COUNTY
1961

- Farm dwelling
- Single owner
  mile
Top photograph: A cash grain farmstead in Livingston County, Illinois. The farmstead occupies a small area at a road intersection and consists only of a barn, grain elevator and machine shed. The cross-plan house is of a less common type.

Lower photograph: A farmstead in Wright County, Iowa. Stock are kept on this farm so that more buildings appear in the farmstead. The hip-roofed barn and the Prairie Tec house are common types.
Top photograph: A roadside farmstead in Stephenson County, Northern Illinois. Much of the surrounding land is under corn and the farmstead consists of various stock sheds and corn stores.

Lower photograph: A stock farmstead in Henry County, Indiana with its numerous buildings. The house is of the prairie square type with a pyramid roof.
Top photograph: A farmstead in Sullivan County, South-western Indiana. Typically, the buildings are less elaborate and neatly arranged than on many farms in more prosperous parts of the Corn Belt.

Lower photograph: A farmstead in the Missouri Livestock raising area in Howard County. The buildings are well spread out with an abundance of trees in the farmstead and the surrounding country also characterizing the area. The houses in both of the photographs are of the bungalow type commonly built in the southern and eastern Corn Belt 30 - 40 years ago.
Top photograph: A farmstead in Thayer County, Nebraska in the cattle raising and grain region. The sheds are unpainted and are protected by a small windbreak. The large cross-plan house is of a less common type.

Lower photograph: A corn and stock farm in Lac Qui Parle County, Minnesota. The Gothic-roofed barn is common in this part of the state. Each distant farmstead can be seen to have a shelter of trees.
RURAL NONFARM HOUSES.

Top photograph: This disused farmstead in Calhoun County, Michigan has been taken over for residential purposes. A new bungalow has been built, the farmhouse appears to have been modernized while the farm buildings fall into disrepair.

Lower photograph: A farmhouse in Sullivan County, Indiana, which appears to have passed into nonfarm hands with the consequent neglect of the rest of the farmstead.