

This February to March 1818 Survey of "Tract Township No. 30 North of the Baseline in "Range 14 East" of the 5th Principal Meridian" contains William Ross's land on the bank of the Mississippi River which he received as a land grant in 1797 (see that document with two survey maps.) William's grant number is 226.

At the top appears to be Louis Lorimier's Grant No. 199, a League Square, 9.5 acres. Below that parcel is another Grant No. 2202 to Louis Lorimier under Hyppolite Mariot. Louis Lorimier died at the age of 64 years on June 26, 1812, years before this 1818 survey, so this parcel has been sold, but is referenced by its original land grant. I wonder if the purpose of this survey was due to the sale of Lorimier's large estate.

Often of interest for genealogy purposes are neighbors. Peter Godair was the original neighbor to the north of William Ross, but the property is now in 1818 owned by John and Robert Giboney. The tract above the Godair/Giboney tract is owned by William Lemar Hodges.

The neighbor below William Ross is Edmond Hogan. Survey 794 was granted to Alexander Milliken who sold the land to Edmond Hogan about 1798. Edmond Hogan later sold it to John Baldwin who was a known Baptist.

William Ross was a member of Tywappity Church (Baptist), which interestingly he donated a strip of land along the northern part of his land to the church and its Pastor Stilley. Worship service was also held in William Ross's home. (See that document for more information.)

Written in the middle of William Ross's parcel of land is "420 arpens" and below that "357.29 arp." On the northern edge is the number 97.80, and on the southern edge is 86.50, and on the western edge is 40.1. I am not sure what these numbers mean, but they appear to be a distance measurement.

In the middle of William Ross's parcel of land are hand drawn creek lines. The main creek nowadays is called Dorrity Creek which flows into the Mississippi River. On the west end of the creek it turns into Hobbs Creek for a short distance near present day Highway N in Scott County, Missouri in the southwest corner.

At the time William Ross owned and lived on the land, it was located in Tywappity Township of the Cape Girardeau District, and as of October 1, 1812, in Cape Girardeau County, Missouri. Eventually it became part of Scott County, Missouri, which was formed on December 28, 1821, after William's death in 1820. (See that document for more on land boundary changes.)

In Edison Shrum's book, *The History of Scott County Missouri up to 1880*, (copyright 1884, second edition 1995) he writes to describe the location of houses, "Its NE corner was in what later became the Cotton Belt addition to Graysboro, and at about 150 feet to the east of the house indicated by the arrow in the

picture below, which was the riverfront at that time (about 1796) the survey was made. The SE corner was one-half mile downriver about 200 feet below the present mouth of Hobbs Creek. The north boundary of his land ran due west for slightly over a mile, and it was a narrow strip along this north boundary that he gave to Stephen Stilley. The houses in the photo were on Front or Water Street, and since this street is slightly elevated above those back of it, it was likely where Stilley's house was located, and bit further down that street, which ran all the way to Hobbs Creek, was almost certainly the location of Wm. Ross' son John's house and ferry. The William Ross home was, I believe, was located WSW, possibly on higher ground south of Hobbs Creek."

As noted above, Hobbs Creek today is only a short portion and the majority of the creek is Dorrity Creek. I believe Mr. Shrum called both creeks collectively as Hobbs Creek. He references "the mouth of Hobbs Creek" which would be where Dorrity Creek enters the Mississippi River.

The photo he includes is difficult to determine where the houses are located as they do not exist today. We took a country drive to the location and talked to locals. The City of Graysboro covered the entire area of Grays Point (First called Ross' Point) including the land on this survey. Front street and a lot of homes and buildings were located where the field is now located between County Road 307 and County Road 308. Water Street was located where County Road 307 is now run.

Shrum believes Stilley's home (and assumably the church next to a parsonage) was located on Front Street. At the end of Front Street was where Shrum believes John Ross's home and ferry were located. Shrum believes William's house to be further west away from the Mississippi River "south of Hobbs Creek." During our drive, there is easily visible along County Road 307 some homes that are on a hill, and I believe this is the area where Shrum believed William Ross's house to be located.

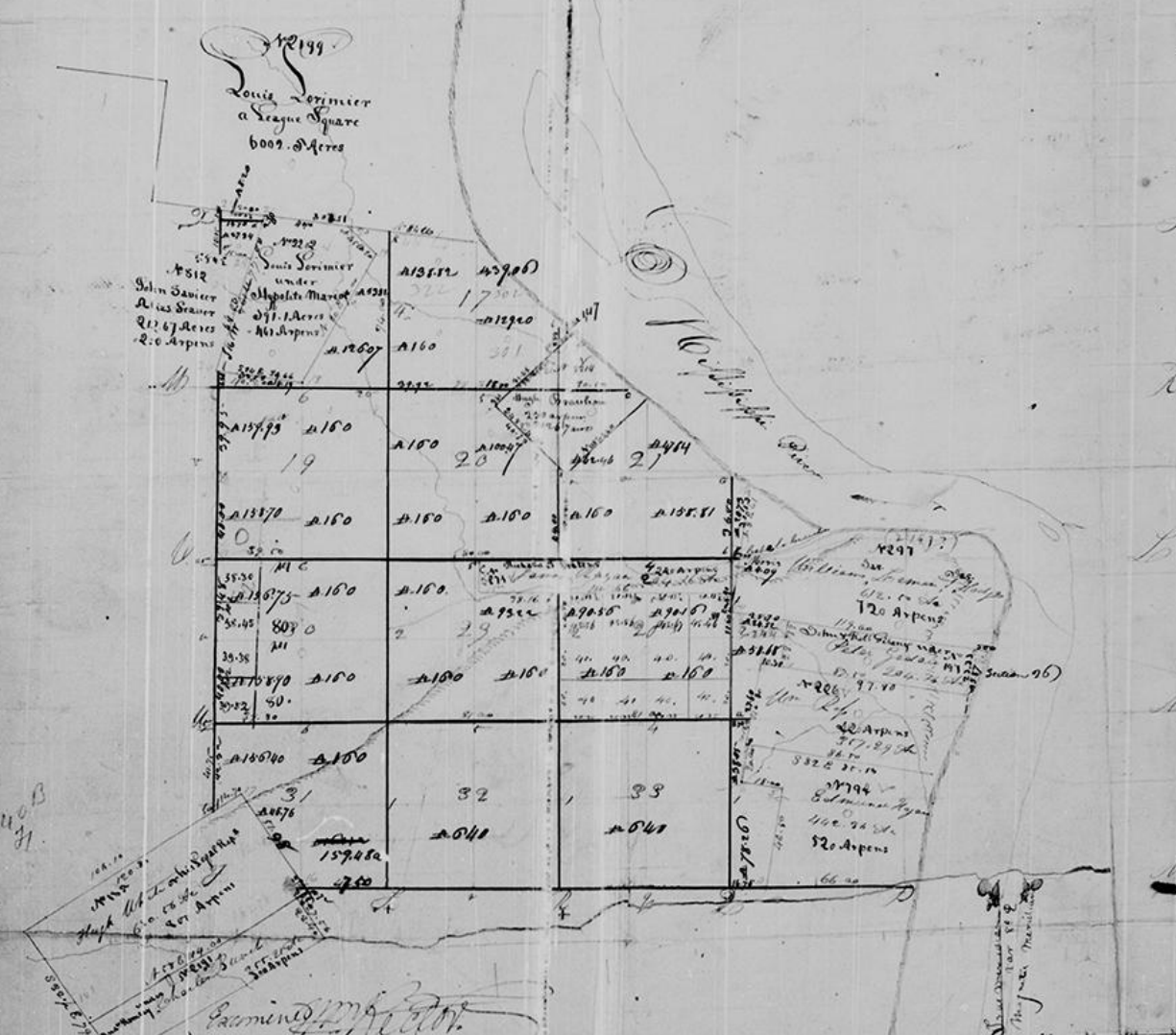
The post office in Graysboro was established in 1898, about 100 years after William Ross owned the land, and remained in operation until 1907. The community has the name of William Gray, a pioneer citizen and steamboat captain. Although the post office was not in operation, community remained at least into the 1960's. We talked to an 84 year old resident who remembers the railroad running down what is now County Road 307. The field does flood about every 7 years all the way up to County Road 307.

MISSOURI

MO

Sec. 4 Township No 30 South of the Base line in Range 14 East of the 5th Meridian

A B C D



Quantity exclusive of Private claims = 6,091.61

Surveyed by J. D. Sprigg, Esq.

February and March 1819

Scale of 1 inch = 40 chains

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR *PRIVATE CLAIMS*
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT **General Land Office Records**

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Search Documents Survey Details

DM ID: 439796 Survey Type: Original Survey State: Missouri

Survey Plat Details Plat Image Related Documents

Survey Office:	St. Louis, Missouri
Surv. Type Other:	---
Fractional:	Yes
Acreage:	6091.61
Mining District:	---
Group Nr:	---
Min. Surv. Index:	---
Survey Nr:	---
Counties:	Cape Girardeau, Scott
Field Notes:	---

Land Descriptions

Map	State-Meridian	Twp - Rng	Boundaries
<input type="checkbox"/>	MO - 5th PM	030.0N - 014.0E	Subdivisional

Survey Activities

Activity Type	Date	Description
Survey Commenced	2/1/1818	Jenifer T Sprigg (Deputy Surveyor)
Survey Completed	3/1/1818	Jenifer T Sprigg (Deputy Surveyor)

Plat Information: Microfilm Duplicate

DM ID:	439429
Duplicate Status:	Microfilm Duplicate
Supplemental:	No
Survey Based Supplemental:	No
Parent Plat:	
Child Plats:	

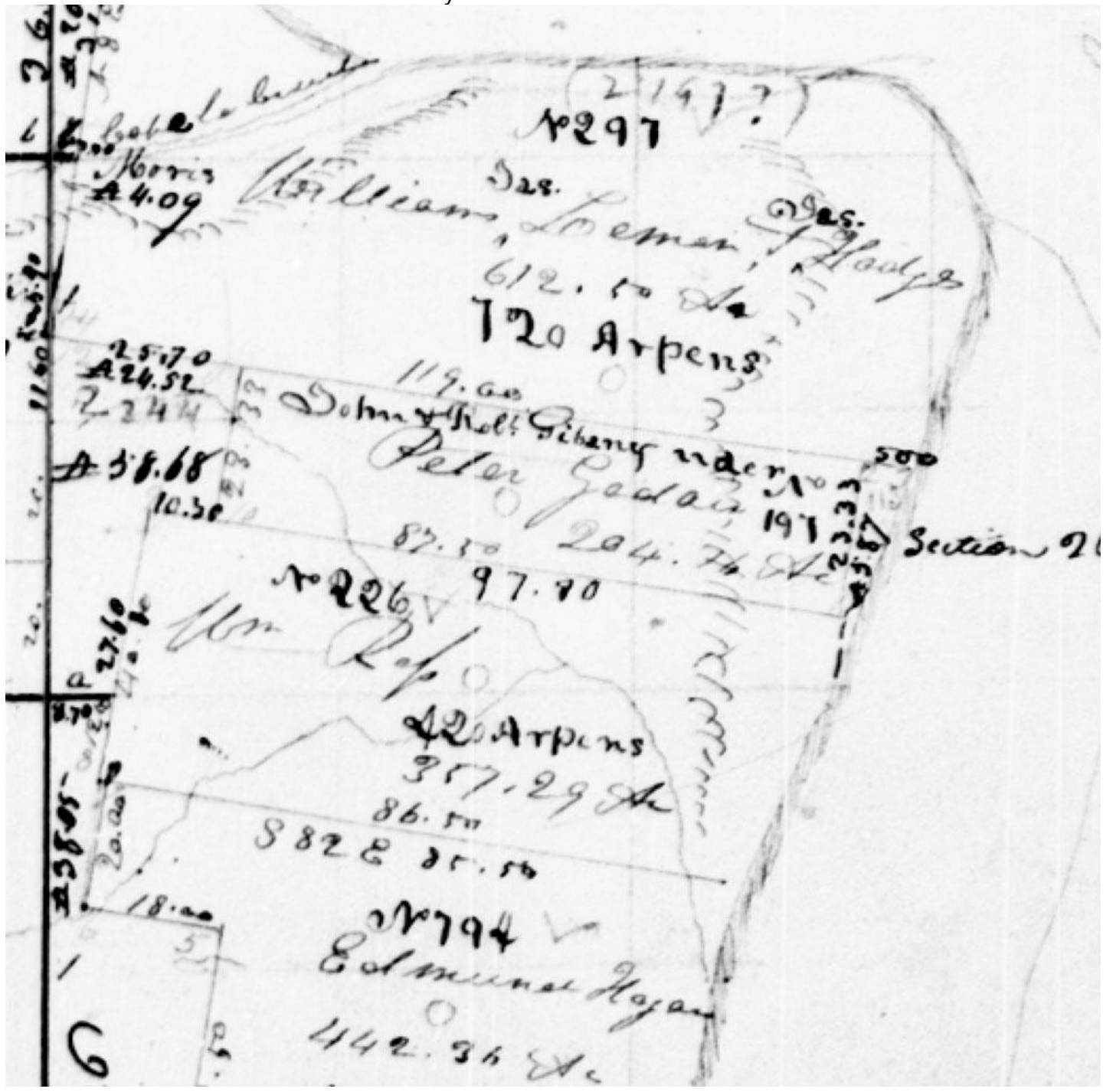
Plat Activities

Activity Type	Date	Description
Examined	---	William Rector (Surveyor General)

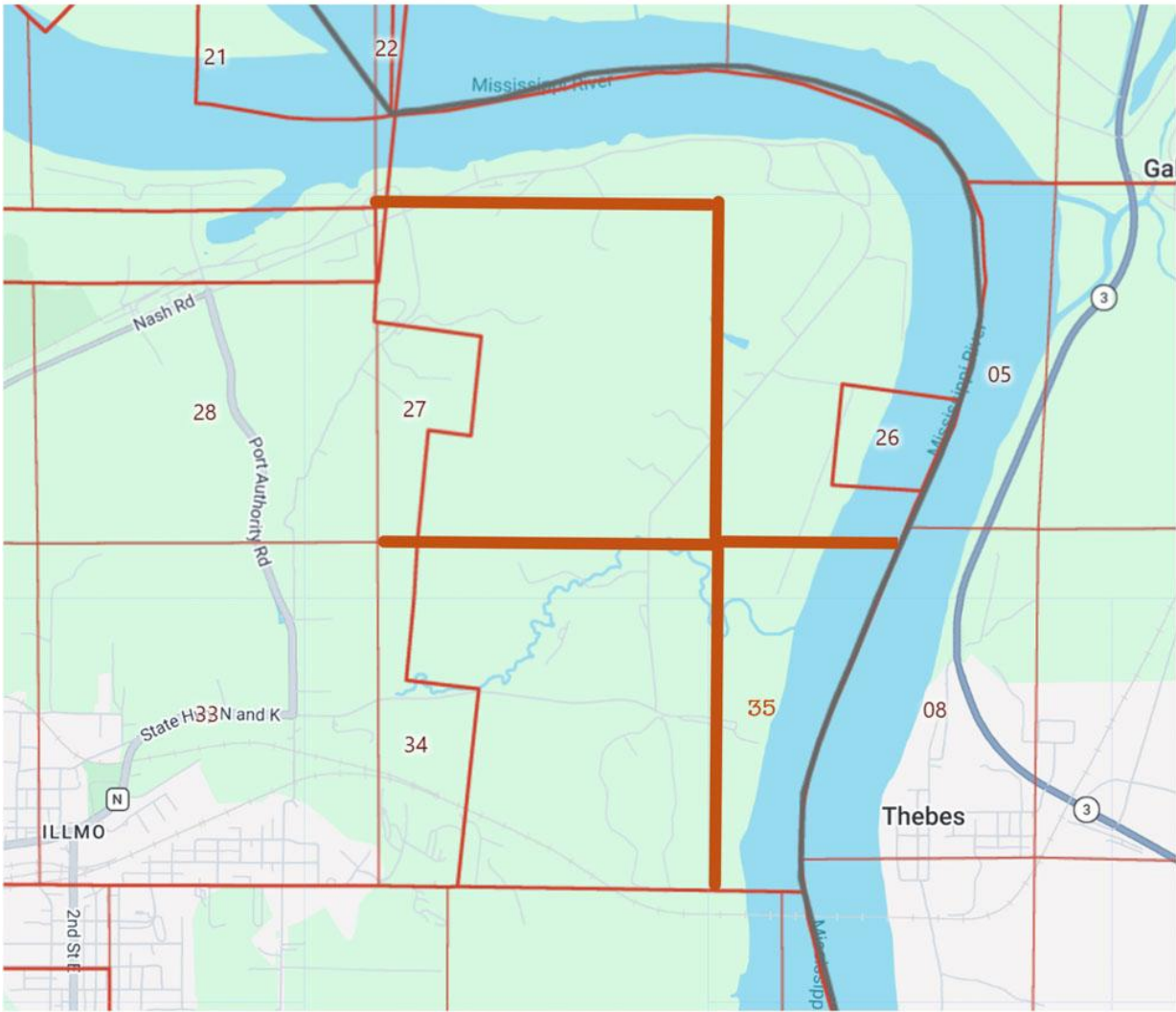
USA.GOV | No Fear Act | DOJ | Disclaimer | About BLM | Notices | Get Adobe Reader® | White House | Budget & Performance | Agency Financial Report
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The source of this survey map is the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management. The Deputy Surveyor was Jenifer T. Sprigg, and the Surveyor General was William Rector.

This is zoomed into the area of the survey that includes William Ross's tract of land.

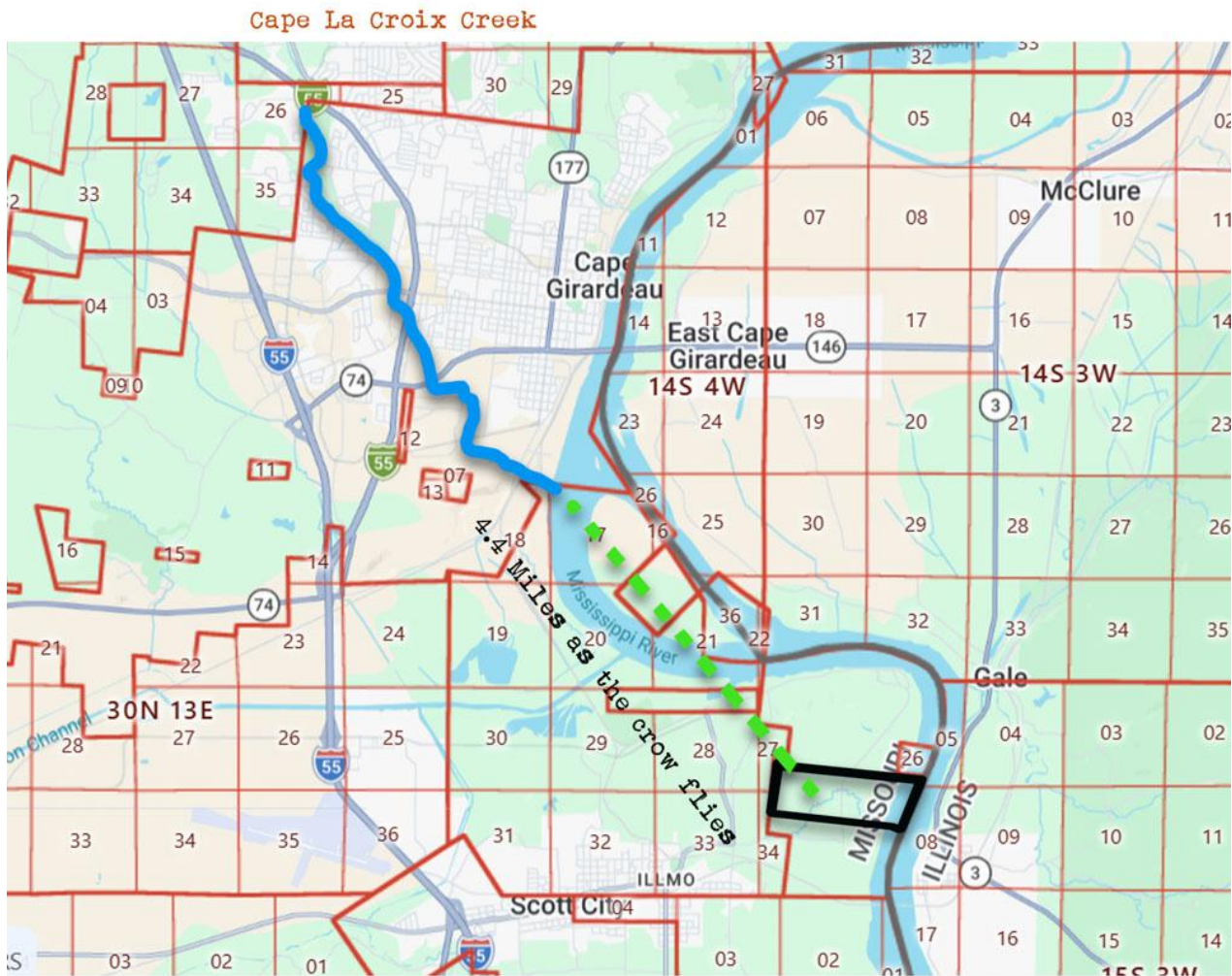


I overlaid the survey over the present-day section map to determine the location of the real estate. I first noted the lack of square section boxes where his property is located, which should be in sections 34, 35, 27, and 26. However, oddly, the tracts of land along the Mississippi Riverbank in that area are not within sections. I digitally drew the lines for those section boxes to see where they would be located if they did exist.



William Ross land
Where **section boxes** would be; **his land** in Sections **34, 35, 27 and 26.**

There are several descriptions of the land being 6 miles from Cape-la-Cruce, and other spellings (Cape LaCroix Creek in the present day, as indicated by the blue line). I located where the creek enters the Mississippi River and calculated the "as the crow flies" as a distance of 4.4 miles (green dotted line). The "as the crow flies" path is through the Mississippi River and, therefore, it can be assumed that the path by land around the curve of the river would constitute about 6 miles.

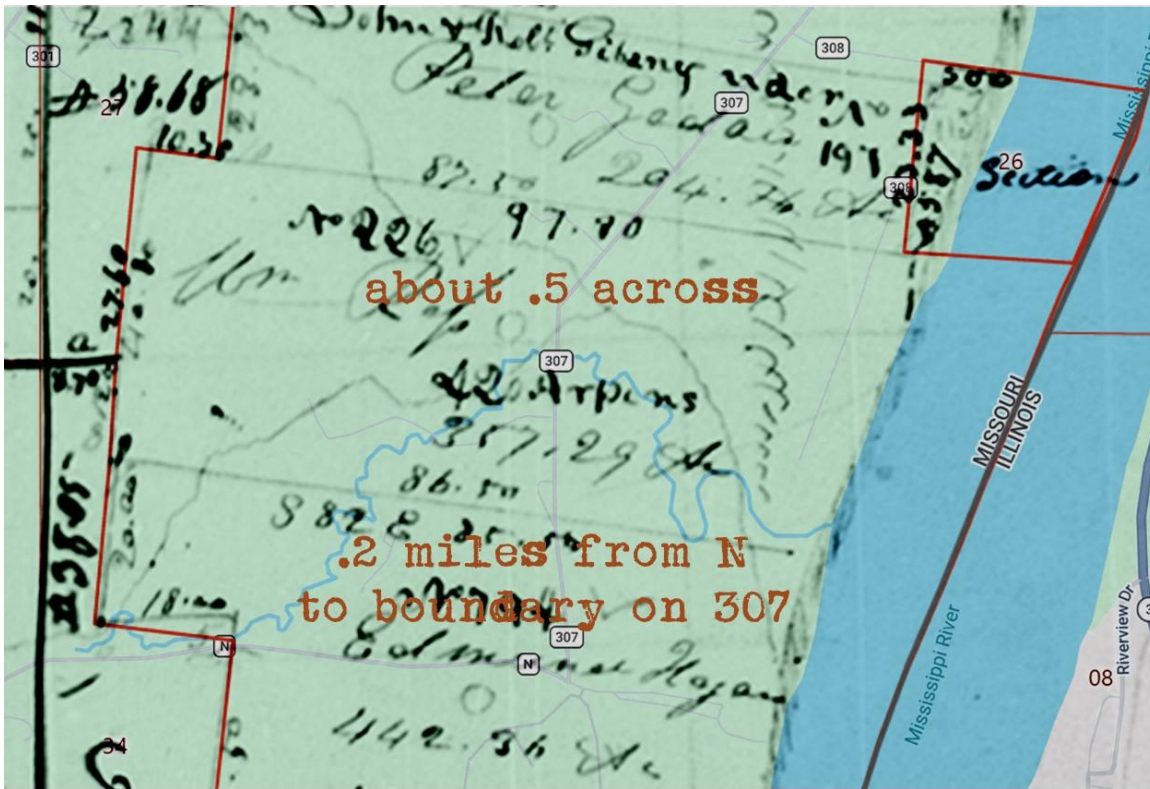


William Ross land
6 miles traveling around the curve of the river.

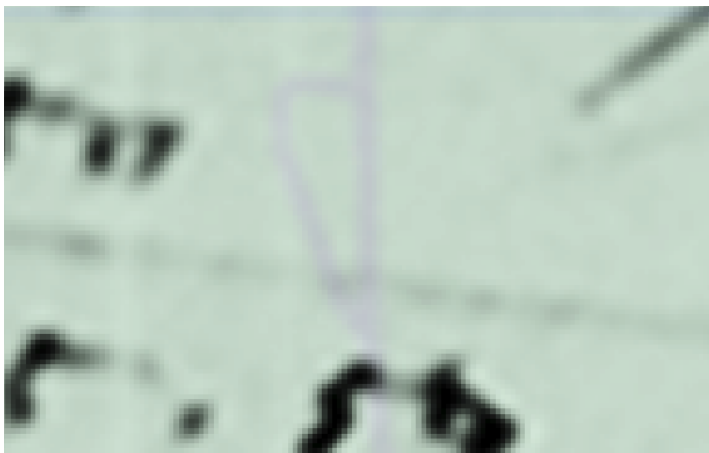
I zoomed in and cropped the image to see the detailed location of William Ross's real estate tract in relation to Highway N, and County Roads 307 and 308. We took a drive to film the area, although you can "drive" it on Google Maps which is fun.



I estimated the distance to drive on County Highway 307 to the boundary lines. It is approximately .2 miles from Highway N to the southern boundary line. From that boundary line, it is about .5 miles along County Highway 307 to the northern boundary line. We did this estimate as we took a country drive.



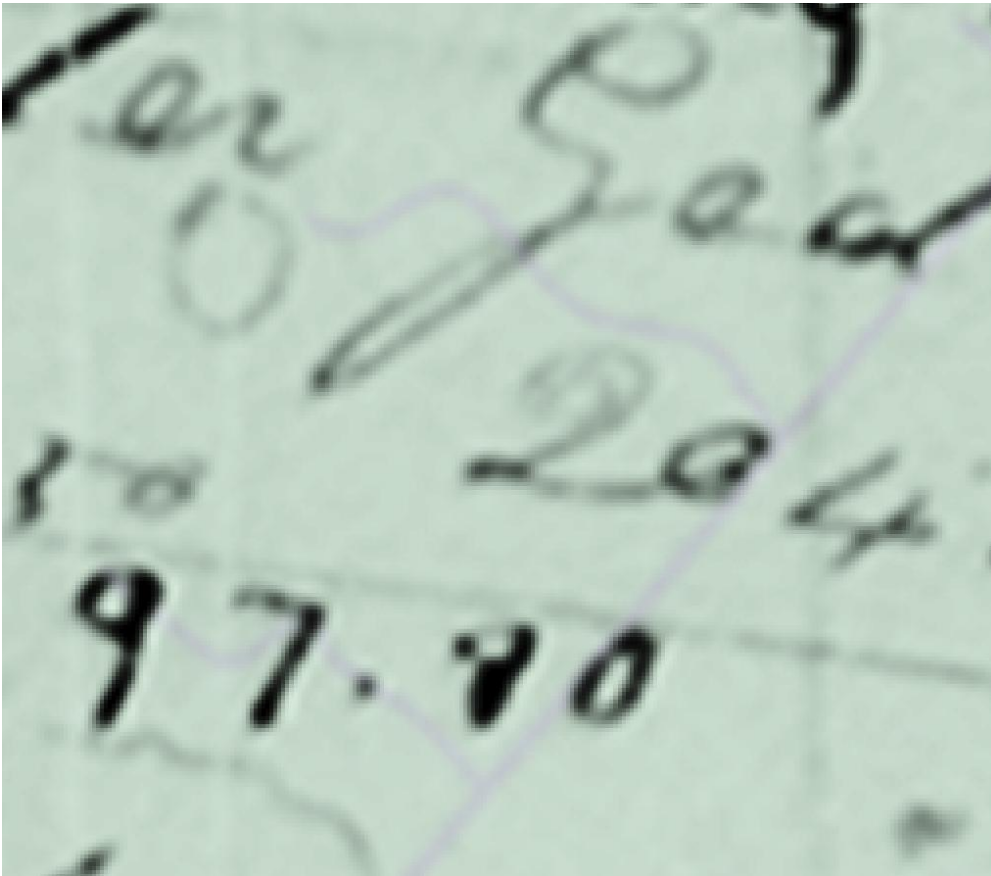
On County Road 307, the southern boundary line is about where this shaped road begins.



As can be seen zoomed in on Google Maps, this shape is a private drive around a building.



The northern boundary line is situated between these two westward roads, which occurs after the bend in County Road 307.

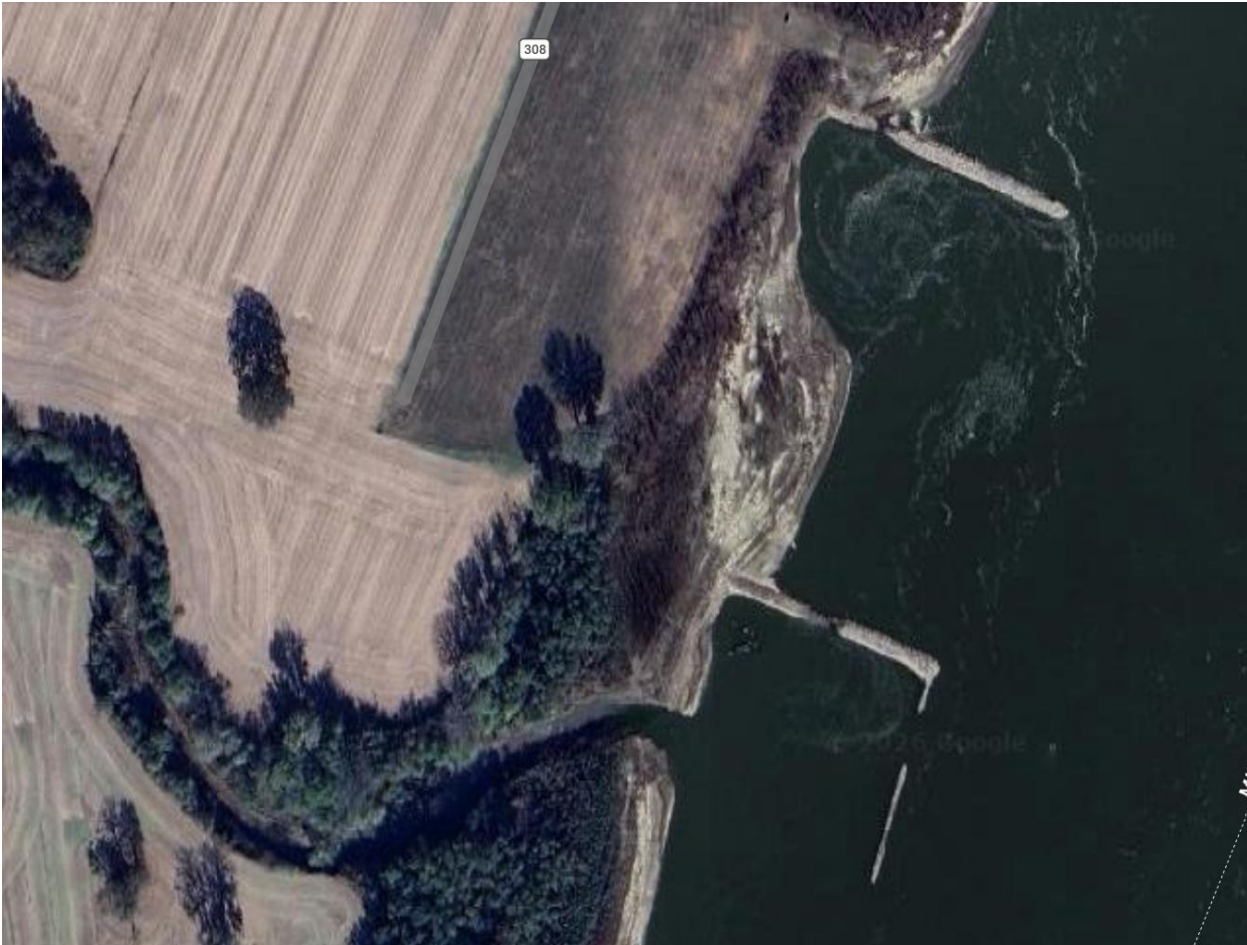


I drew a line approximately where this northern boundary is on Google Maps. To get to the real estate along the Mississippi River on County Highway 308 (aka Water Street), a driver must drive north off of William Ross's real estate, turn right onto County Road 308, and then turn right to continue on County Road 308 (aka Water Street) for a distance before entering on his tract of land again. There is a road directly next to the river, but to get to it one must go straight from 308 towards the river instead of turning, and there is a 'no trespassing' sign located there.

Just below the approximate blue line is the narrow strip of land which William Ross donated to Stephen Stilley as Pastor for the Tywappity Church (Baptist). I note that there are buildings on County Road 308 aka Front Street just below the line, which could have been where the Stilley home and church were located.



County Road 308 aka Water Street dead ends where it appears to be the best place for the ferry to have been located. I spied the beach-like area that slopes to the river as a possible location for a ferry and, thereafter, read Edison Shrum's book, which indicates that he believes William Ross's son, John Ross, lived and worked the ferry at that location. Great minds think alike, as the saying goes. I wonder how long the dikes have been in that area. The southern boundary of William Ross's tract of land was immediately south of where the creek enters the Mississippi River, so the ferry could not have been much further south.



This would mean that the ferry most likely traveled to the northern end of Thebes. Today the Riverhouse (restaurant) sits directly across from central Thebes and the railroad bridge can also be seen from there just south of the Riverhouse.

