NPS Form 10-900
**United States Department of the Interior**
National Park Service

OMB No. 1024-0018

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APR 22 2016
Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Ilasco Historic District

Other names/site number: N/A

Name of related Multiple Property Listing: N/A

## 2. Location

Street & number: 10998 Ilasco Trail — N/A — not for publication

City or town: Hannibal — X — vicinity

State: Missouri Code: MO County: Ralls Code: 173 Zip code: 63401

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this _X_ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property _X_ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide _X_ local

Applicable National Register Criteria: _X_ A ___ B ___ C ___ D

Toni M. Prawl — 04/15/2016
Signature of certifying official/Title Toni M. Prawl, Ph.D., Deputy SHPO — Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official — Date

Title — State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

____ determined eligible for the National Register

____ determined not eligible for the National Register

____ removed from the National Register

____ other (explain:)

for Edson H. Beall — 6.7.16
Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

## 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

| | |
|---|---|
| X | private |
| X | public - Local |
| | public - State |
| | public - Federal |

**Category of Property**
(Check only **one** box.)

| | |
|---|---|
| | building(s) |
| X | district |
| | site |
| | structure |
| | object |

**Number of Resources within Property**
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | | buildings |
| | | sites |
| 1 | | structures |
| | | objects |
| 3 | | **Total** |

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

## 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/correctional facility
COMMERCE/store
COMMERCE/tavern
TRANSPORTATION/road-related (vehicular)

**Current Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT
SOCIAL/meeting hall
TRANSPORTATION/road-related (vehicular)

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**
(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Concrete two-cell jail
OTHER: One-part commercial block building
OTHER: Pratt pony truss bridge

**Materials**
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE
walls: CONCRETE
BRICK
roof: CONCRETE
other: STEEL
WOOD

X **NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUATION PAGES**

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

[X] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

[ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

[ ] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

[ ] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

[ ] A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

[ ] B removed from its original location.

[ ] C a birthplace or grave.

[ ] D a cemetery.

[ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

[ ] F a commemorative property.

[ ] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

### Areas of Significance

ETHNIC HERITAGE: EUROPEAN

### Period of Significance

1909 - 1965

### Significant Dates

1909

1910

### Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Pauley Jail Building Company

Stupp Brothers Bridge and Iron Company

[X] **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUATION PAGES**

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

____preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
____previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

**Primary location of additional data:**

_X_State Historic Preservation Office
____Other State agency
____Federal agency
____Local government
____University
_X_Other
Name of repository: **Hannibal Free Public Library**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

| | Latitude: | Longitude: | | Latitude: | Longitude: |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 39.671238 | - 91.309564 | 3 | 39.670478 | - 91.309441 |
| 2 | 39.671291 | - 91.308948 | 4 | 39.670512 | -91.309583 |

**UTM References**
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)
_____ NAD 1927 or _____ NAD 1983

| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | | 3 | | | |
| 2 | | | | 4 | | | |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (On continuation sheet)

**Boundary Justification** (On continuation sheet)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rachel Barnhart, National Register and Survey Specialist

organization Missouri State Historic Preservation Office date

street & number P.O. Box 176 telephone 573-522-2473

city or town Jefferson City state MO zip code 65102

e-mail rachel.barnhart@dnr.mo.gov

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:**
  - A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
  - A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Photographs**
- **Owner Name and Contact Information**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
**Estimated Burden Statement**: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

## Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

## Photo Log:

Name of Property: **Ilasco Historic District**

City or Vicinity: **Hannibal (vic.)**

County: **Ralls** State: **MO**

Photographer: **Rachel Barnhart**

Date Photographed: **June 23, 2015**

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

See Figure 5 for photo key.

**01 of 10**: Ilasco Historic District. Memorial in the foreground is not within NR boundary. View SE.
**02 of 10**: Marble Creek Bridge, Al's Tavern and Ilasco Jail. View S.
**03 of 10**: Marble Creek Bridge. View SE.
**04 of 10**: Marble Creek Bridge trusses. Church in the background is not within NR boundary. View SW.
**05 of 10**: Al's Tavern, façade. View S.
**06 of 10**: Al's Tavern, north elevation. View SW.
**07 of 10**: Al's Tavern, façade and south elevation with mural. View E.
**08 of 10**: Ilasco Jail. View NE.
**09 of 10**: Ilasco Jail door. View E.
**10 of 10**: Ilasco Historic District. View N.

## Figure Log:

Include figures on continuation pages at the end of the nomination.

**Figure 1**: Contextual map showing Ilasco Historic District in relation to Hannibal.
**Figure 2**: Contextual map showing relation of the Ilasco Historic District to the Continental Cement Company facilities (including Plant No. 5), the suburb of Monkey Run, and the Mississippi River.
**Figure 3**: Labeled setting map.
**Figure 4**: Ilasco Historic District Boundary and Resource Map.
**Figure 5**: Photo Key.
**Figure 6**: 1904 map showing land holdings of the Atlas Portland Cement Company, including Ilasco.
**Figure 7**: 1933 map of Ilasco drawn by Ralls County Assessor.
**Figure 8**: 1946 map showing land holdings of the Universal Atlas Cement Company, including Ilasco.
**Figure 9**: Atlas Portland Cement Company's Plant No. 5 is seen in the background, c. 1903. In the foreground a few tents and small dwellings can be seen.
**Figure 10**: Circa 1905 photograph of the Ilasco business district with the cement plant in the background. This photograph was taken before a fire in March of 1906 destroyed many of the business buildings. The wood bridge across Marble Creek (circled in red) was replaced by the steel bridge in the nominated district in 1910. Plant No. 5 in the background is still standing today.

**Figure 11**: Circa 1919 photograph of the Loguda family in front of company housing called Pump House Hollow. Mary Loguda (top row, left) worked for Atlas repairing the sacks used to ship cement.
**Figure 12**: Circa 1920 photograph of three unidentified girls in front of a house in Company Row.
**Figure 13**: Circa 1910 photograph of Ilasco taken from the hill behind the Ilasco Jail, view west-southwest. None of these buildings remain today.
**Figure 14**: Photograph of the nominated tavern taken c. 1920 when it was Miller's Dry Goods and Notions.
**Figure 15**: (Left) Virginia Roach Stephens and daughters in front of the Stephens General Store. (Right) John W. Stephens and daughters by the family Pontiac, parked next to Stephens General Store. Both photographs taken c. 1936.
**Figure 16**: Circa 1924 photograph of Al Venditti at age 12. The nominated bridge is in the background, left, and the nominated tavern (which Al would eventually own) is in the background, right. The house behind the tavern was demolished in the early 1930s.
**Figure 17**: Pre-1946 advertisement for Al's Tavern. Notice the mention of "the bridge" as a way to identify the location. Also note the offer of Italian to English translations.
**Figure 18**: Late 1920s image of the nominated tavern when it was owned by the Millers. Notice the nominated bridge at the left and the gas pumps in front of the store. The building on the other side of the bridge was a barber shop owned by Ilasco resident Clarence Cooper.
**Figure 19**: Circa 1943 photograph of two young women of Ilasco, Susan Kisel and Mary Valach, posing in their traditional Slovakian dresses.
**Figure 20**: Late 1930s photographs of Slovakian residents of Ilasco.
**Figure 21**: Former site of the Ilasco Grade School, High School, and gymnasium, located to the southwest of the historic district.
**Figure 22**: Historic bunk bed located inside the Ilasco Jail. Each bunk bed slept up to four people, and there is one bunk bed in each cell (the jail has two cells).

## SUMMARY

The Ilasco Historic District in Ralls County, Missouri, is located about 3.6 miles southeast of Hannibal on Ilasco Trail, south of Highway 79. The approximately 0.7-acre historic district has a rural character and is comprised of two contributing buildings and one contributing structure; these are a jail, a one-story commercial building with two storefronts, and a Pratt pony truss bridge. Built in 1909 by the Pauley Jail Building Company, the jail is a one-story concrete building with two cells (each cell capable of sleeping up to four inmates) and a shallow front hall. The one-story commercial brick building is estimated to have been constructed in 1909. It has a flat roof, short front parapet, and was designed with two storefronts and rear living quarters. The storefronts have traditionally housed grocery stores and a tavern, and they retain their historic design. The north elevation of the building has a fading mural for Al's Tavern, while a painted advertisement for Pepsi-Cola is maintained on the south elevation. The Pratt pony truss steel bridge was constructed by the Stupp Brothers Bridge and Iron Company in 1910 and crosses over Marble Creek to allow access to the commercial building and the jail. These two buildings and one structure represent the heart of what was once a thriving center of public life and business within the immigrant town of Ilasco. Ilasco was formed by the multitude of European immigrants that arrived at the turn of the twentieth century to work at the Atlas Portland Cement Company. The cement company facility and the residences, businesses, churches, and schools constructed to serve Atlas' immigrant labor force comprised the town. Prior to World War I, Ilasco was home to as many as 3,000 people; the majority were immigrants from Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Ukraine. The town of Ilasco was never officially incorporated. Today, the majority of Ilasco's historic built environment is gone, having been demolished to make way for the re-routing of Highway 79 in the 1960s. Even though the town is no longer inhabited, many former residents of Ilasco continue to attend church in the area and maintain the remaining buildings. The three resources comprising the Ilasco Historic District retain integrity and convey significance under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage.

## ELABORATION

### Setting

The Ilasco Historic District is located approximately 3.6 miles southeast of Hannibal, Missouri, in Ralls County, just south of the Marion County-Ralls County border (figure 1). Hannibal was founded in 1819 and flourished as a steamboat port in the nineteenth century. The Mississippi River, forming Missouri's border with Illinois, is located about a half of a mile to the north and east of the historic district. Today, Hannibal is a popular destination for heritage tourism and is known as the place that nurtured a young Mark Twain. Hannibal currently has a population of about 17,000[1]; the Ilasco Historic District is located in the vicinity of the city but maintains a decidedly rural character. Ilasco is no longer inhabited by permanent residents. From day to day, people arrive in Ilasco to go to church, work in the cement plant, or visit the nominated district. The landscape is fairly hilly with steep banks overlooking the Mississippi River. It is the limestone deposits within these banks that drew the Atlas Portland Cement Company to establish a plant in the area in 1903. Now known as the Continental Cement Company, the company has continued for more than 100 years to manufacture cement at its Hannibal-area plant. The company's large industrial buildings still stand

[1] History of Hannibal, City of Hannibal, MO. http://www.hannibal-mo.gov/about/. Accessed November 2015.

to the west and north of the historic district[2], including Plant No. 5, built in 1903 (figure 2). The Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy rail line facilitated the export of the cement; the railroad tracks still carry goods along a path that travels in tandem with the Mississippi River. A collection of modest residences make up the neighborhood of Monkey Run[3], located about a quarter of a mile to the northeast of the historic district. Considered a residential suburb of Ilasco, Monkey Run developed in tandem with Ilasco in response to the need for increased worker housing. In contrast to Ilasco, a majority of the land in Monkey Run was not owned by the cement company.[4] Portions of Monkey Run were damaged by a record flood in 1993.

To the southeast of the historic district are hundreds of acres of hills, owned and quarried by the cement company. Highway 79 runs immediately to the west of the historic district; this highway generally parallels the Mississippi River in Missouri and is federally designated in areas of the state as a National Scenic Byway called the "The Little Dixie Highway of the Great River Road."[5] Marble Creek Cemetery, the final resting place for some of Ilasco's former residents, is located about one mile southwest of the historic district off of Highway 79. The re-routing of this highway through Ilasco triggered the demolition of the majority of the community's residences and all of its schools. The Ilasco Historic District that remains today is comprised of core buildings important in the town's history.

The 0.7-acre Ilasco Historic District is located in Township 56N, Range 4W, Section 2, on Ilasco Trail, a north-south gravel road that extends south from Highway 79 and becomes a steel Pratt pony truss bridge over Marble Creek (photo 2). The gravel road passes in front of the commercial building, which still displays the fading signs of a mural for Al's Tavern, and ends in front of the Ilasco Jail and the Saverton-Ilasco United Methodist Church. Behind Al's Tavern and the Ilasco Jail, the heavily wooded landscape rises in elevation, giving the appearance (particularly in the spring and summer) of an untamed curtain of vegetation behind the two buildings. The National Register boundary of the Ilasco Historic District is drawn using natural and man-made features upon the land, and includes the bridge, tavern, and jail (figure 3).

The Saverton-Ilasco United Methodist Church and an asphalt parking lot are located on the west side of Ilasco Trail across from the jail. While the church building, constructed in 1951, has been excluded from the National Register boundary due to modern alterations, it retains an active congregation and is one of two churches remaining in Ilasco.[6] The other church, Holy Cross Catholic Church, is located north of Highway 79 and the nominated district. Upon first glance, there appears to be simply an overgrown field to the southwest of the district. However, this area was once home to school buildings and a church, the Church of the Nazarene, which supported the immigrant community of Ilasco (figure 7).[7] These buildings were located on land owned by the cement company, and they were demolished to make way for Highway 79 in the first half of the 1960s. Partial foundations from the schools are still visible (figure 21), and the Ilasco Area Historical Preservation Society has installed memorial plaques describing what was once there.

[2] The majority of the company's industrial buildings and structures were constructed in 1966 and after.
[3] Monkey Run is not incorporated.
[4] Gregg Andrews, *City of Dust: A Company Town in the Land of Tom Sawyer* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1996), 2.
[5] Rickie Longfellow, "Back in Time: Highway 79, Little Dixie Highway of the Great River Road." Federal Highway Administration, October 17, 2013. Published online at https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/infrastructure/back0406.cfm, accessed November 2015.
[6] "The Beautiful Stained Glass Windows at the Methodist Church in Ilasco." Ilasco Area Newsletter, March 2013, Vol. 11, Issue 1.
[7] Andrews, *City of Dust,* 2.

To the north of the bridge (outside of the district boundary and lining both sides of Ilasco Trail) is a memorial site created in 1999 and established in memory of Ilasco by the Ilasco Area Historical Preservation Society (photo 1, figure 3). The memorial to the east of Ilasco trail features landscaped grounds lined with cement aggregate blocks. Within the landscaping is a monument to the immigrants of Ilasco, an Ilasco Veterans Memorial monument, a Cement Plant Workers monument, and a brick pathway with each brick inscribed with a memory from one of Ilasco's former residents. Seven flags fly over the monuments, each flag representing one of the European countries from which Ilasco's residents emigrated. The west side of Ilasco Trail also features a landscaped area lined with curving cement aggregate blocks. This area contains a memorial bench, a monument to the churches and another to the schools of Ilasco, a flagpole with the United States and State of Missouri flags, and an informational signboard. The memorial site serves as a gateway and welcomes visitors to the former village of Ilasco, highlighting what has been lost as well as the tangible and intangible elements that remain.

**Marble Creek Bridge | Constructed 1910 | Stupp Bros. Bridge Co. | Contributing Structure**

The contributing bridge in the Ilasco Historic District facilitates the extension of Ilasco Trail as it crosses over Marble Creek southeast of Highway 79. The Missouri Department of Transportation has catalogued and identified the bridge as Structure No. 279000.1 and as "Al's Tavern Bridge."[8] The name "Marble Creek Bridge" will be used in this nomination. Positioned north-south, Marble Creek Bridge is a steel, four-panel, pin-connected Pratt pony truss bridge with one lane of travel (photo 4). The upper chords are flat and horizontal, and the end posts are inclined. It is approximately sixty feet long and fourteen feet wide.[9] The bridge was built over Marble Creek at its current location in 1910 by the Stupp Brothers Bridge and Iron Company. It still functions in its original capacity and is open to automobile traffic.

The deck is comprised of timbers laid perpendicular to the bridge trusses (photo 2). Two separate strips of timbers are laid on top of the deck far enough apart to accommodate vehicle tires. The deck is supported by steel stringers. The steel members of the pony truss are painted a burnt red color. Historically, there was a builder's plaque riveted to one of the bridge beams, but it was stolen in 1999.[10] Ron Cook of the Ralls County Road Maintenance Department gave the Ilasco Area Historical Preservation Society a historic plaque from another Ralls County bridge that was constructed the same year (1910) and by the same company (Stupp Bros.) as the Marble Creek Bridge. This historic cast iron plaque (located outside of the district boundary) has been mounted to a concrete stone and placed near the northwest corner of the bridge as a memorial (photo 3). The plaque reads:

1910
Built By
Stupp Bro's
Bridge & Iron Co.
St Louis Mo.
H.J. Priest Presiding Judge

[8] Missouri Department of Transportation Inventory Form. Al's Tavern Bridge, Structure No. 279000.1. Inventoried by Clayton B. Fraser, March 27, 1991.
[9] Ralls County GIS maps. http://rallscogis.com/. Accessed July 14, 2015.
[10] "Ilasco Bridge Memorial Monument installed at Ilasco." Ilasco Area Newsletter. Sept 2011, Vol. 9, Issue 3.

J.H. Holloway } Associate
M.T. Gill } Judges
R.A. Briscoe County Clerk
A.V. Ely Highway Eng'r

**Al's Tavern | Constructed c. 1909 | Builder Unknown | Contributing Building**

Beyond Marble Creek Bridge lies Al's Tavern. This rectangular one-story commercial brick building is estimated to have been constructed in 1909. The building faces west-northwest, fronting Ilasco Trail (photo 5). The building contains two public storefronts and private rear residential quarters (photo 6). There is a shallow concrete patio in front of the building. The slightly larger northern bay contains a centered wood entrance door with a large single glazed light flanked by replacement plate-glass display windows that extend outward from the entrance to align with the plane of the façade. The door is slightly raised and accessed via two concrete steps. The display windows have historic painted wood bulkheads. A transom window with seven lights tops the storefront. There is a metal lintel beam topped with rowlock bricks over the transom. The southern bay is separated from the northern bay by a thin brick pier. The southern bay contains a recessed non-historic wood composite door at the north end. A plate glass display window extends out from the south side of the door and aligns with the façade (photo 7). This door is also slightly raised and accessed via two concrete steps. A transom over the door and window contains six lights and is topped with a metal lintel beam and rowlock bricks. The building has a flat roof and a slightly raised central parapet. The building was rehabilitated by the owner, Local Pace Union 205 (the Continental Cement Company labor union) in the mid-2000s[11]. The historic bulkheads were retained and re-painted in union colors of white, yellow, and blue. The display windows were replaced in-kind, and the transom windows were either repaired or replaced in-kind. An awning over the two storefronts was removed. Although the display windows are recent in-kind replacements, the storefronts retain their historic configuration and design. The storefront interiors are now used as union hall and meeting space. The interior wiring has been replaced, and new HVAC systems have been installed. The rear residential space is now used as a union office.

A fading mural from when the building was occupied by Al's Tavern is visible on the north elevation (photo 6). At the bottom of the rectangular fading mural is a smaller painted advertisement for "Beer by the Case." To the left of the mural is an extremely faded painting of the Pepsi-Cola logo. The brick of the two-story rear residential area is painted white, differentiating it from the red brick commercial space at the front of the building. A brick and concrete stucco chimney rises from the north elevation. Beyond the chimney are four windows (two in the commercial section and two in the residential section). The windows are replacement, double-hung sash set within segmented-arch openings. The east elevation has an entrance to the residential quarters; only the second story of the east elevation is above grade due to the steep hill. The entire elevation has a simple metal shed-roof porch supported by a series of thin square wood posts. Concrete steps with a metal handrail lead down the hill from the rear of the building on the south elevation. The south elevation displays a mural that reads "ILASCO GROCERY" and has an advertisement for Pepsi-Cola. The mural was first painted on the building in 1948 and was re-painted in the mid-2000s (photo 10). The living quarters are obscured by vegetation. A chimney rises from the elevation, and one

[11] *Ilasco Area Newsletter* 6, no. 4 (2008): 1-4.

replacement double-hung window and a replacement door, both set within segmented-arch openings, are visible.

**Ilasco Jail | Constructed 1909 | Pauley Jail Company | Contributing Building**

Constructed in 1909, the Ilasco Jail sits just beyond Al's Tavern and is set into the base of the steep wooded hill (photo 8). The one-story concrete jail faces west onto Ilasco Trail and contains two windowless cells and a shallow front hall with a small square opening with bars at each (north and south) end of the jail. The curved roof of the jail is vaulted with ridges that slope down gently to the east and the west. The eaves at the east (rear) and west (front) elevations extend out slightly while the roofline is flush with the exterior walls on the north and south elevations. The exterior walls are smoothed concrete. The west façade contains one iron lattice door at the northern portion of the wall that leads into the jail's entry hall (photo 9). A small, square opening filled with horizontal iron bars pierces the center of this wall near the roofline. The south elevation contains one opening (aligning with the front hall) filled with iron bars high up on the western portion of the wall. The north elevation also has a small opening (also aligning with the front hall) filled with iron bars high up on the western portion of the wall. A small wood interpretive sign is set in the ground at the northwest corner of the jail. The east wall of the jail is barely visible; nearly the entire elevation is below grade and set into the hill. These windowless portions of the walls denote the cell space.

The interior entry hall, located in the west (front) portion of the jail, has two locations for wood stoves on each end of the building to provide heat. The metal stovepipe chimneys are still extant. The three small square barred openings (one each on the north, west, and south elevations) allow minimal daylight into the entry hall. The interior contains one windowless cell at each end of the building. Each cell is enclosed and locked via a heavy barred iron door. A historic double bunk bed, which slept up to four prisoners, is still extant in each cell (figure 22). The jail does not have running water or a bathroom.

**Integrity**

The Ilasco Historic District is comprised of three resources that not only have managed to survive the 1960s-era demolition period related to the re-routing of Highway 79 but that also have retained a majority of their historic building materials. While a large portion of the built environment of Ilasco has been demolished, the remaining resources retain integrity of location and their rural setting. The design of the bridge, Al's Tavern, and the jail are entirely preserved. Workmanship is particularly evident in the jail, which utilizes the building material Ilasco's residents labored to produce. The element of feeling is preserved in the Ilasco Historic District; together, the three resources evoke the community that once thrived. Finally, the aspect of association is particularly strong in the district. Marble Creek Bridge, Al's Tavern, and the Ilasco Jail are three core resources from the town's commercial area and represent a direct and tangible link to the history of Ilasco.

## SUMMARY

The Ilasco Historic District, located at 10998 Ilasco Trail in the vicinity of Hannibal, Ralls County, Missouri, is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage. This 0.7-acre district is comprised of a Pratt pony truss steel bridge over Marble Creek, a one-story brick commercial building with two storefronts that served primarily as a grocery store and tavern, and a one-story concrete jail with two cells. Together, these three resources are significant remaining elements of the once-thriving immigrant town known as Ilasco. Ilasco was established when the Atlas Portland Cement Company built a large cement manufacturing plant along the banks of the Mississippi River in 1903. Needing a large labor force to work in the plant, Atlas recruited foreign labor. Immigrants from eastern and southern Europe arrived in Ilasco in large numbers, seeking the opportunity for a better life; they came primarily from Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Ukraine. By the 1910s, Ilasco's population numbered nearly 3,000. Since the majority of the immigrants working for Atlas spoke limited English, they primarily resided in close proximity to the cement plant. The thriving community established roots by opening businesses such as grocery stores and taverns, and eventually fraternal halls, churches, and schools. The construction of the concrete jail was a reflection of Atlas's desire to keep order in the community. Ilasco's residents crossed the steel bridge spanning Marble Creek back and forth to go to work and to access the community's churches, schools, groceries, and residences. They entered the commercial building to purchase goods and meet family and friends. While a majority of Ilasco's residents never saw the inside of the concrete jail, it solidly stood along a public thoroughfare as a symbol of an effort to enforce the law and ensure order; its concrete construction echoed the material Ilasco's residents labored to produce. The period of significance of the Ilasco Historic District begins in 1909 with the construction of the jail and the commercial building and ends in 1965, when the majority of Ilasco's residents had been forced to relocate. By the mid-1960s, Atlas (then owned by the United Steel Corporation) had given the residents of Ilasco notice that they must vacate company-owned land by 1969. Most of Ilasco's public buildings, such as the schools, churches, and other businesses, were razed in the early 1960s to make way for the re-routing of Highway 79. By 1965, the immigrant community of Ilasco was under intense pressure to disperse. The commercial brick building, then known as Al's Tavern and located on private land owned by the Italian Vendetti family, was able to remain, as well as the nominated bridge and the jail. The historic district is comprised of resources that played an important role in Ilasco and represents some of the last remaining properties from when Ilasco was a thriving community. The historic district retains integrity and conveys significance under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage.

## ELABORATION

### The Atlas Portland Cement Company and the Immigrant Community of Ilasco

Ralls County, along with neighboring Marion, Lincoln, Pike and Monroe counties, was predominantly agrarian before the Civil War and together formed the second-largest slave-holding region in Missouri.[12] In 1900, the economy of Ralls County was still largely agricultural, with 75% of the county used for farming.[13] That year, only approximately 108 wage earners in Ralls County

[12] Andrews, *City of Dust*, 7.
[13] Ibid, 8-9.

worked in manufacturing or mechanical industries.[14] Prior to the establishment of the Atlas Portland Cement Company, the main sources of work for Mississippi River Valley occupants was in the form of temporary farm and sawmill labor.[15] The location eventually chosen for the Atlas Portland Cement Company's (Atlas) plant was advantageous for many reasons. In 1849, it was reported that the hills overlooking the Mississippi River near Hannibal were rich in limestone and shale.[16] Atlas, headquartered in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, had decided to enter the Midwestern market by 1899. The Mississippi River and Hannibal's resource-rich hills coupled with Illinois' coal fields provided the materials needed to manufacture and export cement.[17] Additionally, Hannibal was situated only 120 miles away from St. Louis, a large market, and Hannibal had three railroad lines to facilitate shipments to a larger hinterland that included Chicago. These factors made the Hannibal region an ideal location, and thus the site for the company's first cement plant on the Mississippi River was chosen (figure 6).[18]

By June of 1901, Atlas purchased 1,144 acres of land for the plant and quarries.[19] Construction on Plant No. 5 began in August of 1901, and the development of a rail line, called the K Line, to transport workers between Hannibal and the plant was underway.[20] Anticipating the influx of labor that would shortly arrive, company officials decided to give a name to the new site of the plant and foreseen community: "Ilasco." The name Ilasco was derived from the materials necessary to create cement: iron, limestone, aluminum, silica, calcium, and oxygen. When production of Portland cement commenced at the plant in March of 1903, it was one of 78 cement plants in the United States and the first west of the Mississippi River (figure 9).[21] Limestone and shale were transported to the plant from a quarry and mine via the Hannibal Connecting Railroad, completed in 1902.[22] Another cement plant, Plant No. 6, was built in Ilasco in 1905.[23]

The Portland cement produced by Atlas was used in high-profile projects such as the Keokuk Dam in Iowa, the Panama Canal, and the Empire State Building in New York City; just as important, it was also used for local residential, agricultural, and commercial buildings and roads.[24] The increasing implementation of concrete roads in America after 1909 propelled the Portland cement industry forward, and by 1919 approximately 134 million barrels of cement were being produced annually across the country.[25]

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[14] The population in 1900 in Ralls County was 12,297. Gregg Andrews, "Ilasco Cement Workers and the War on Booze in Ralls County, Missouri, 1903-1914," *Gateway Heritage* 16 (Spring 1996): 4.
[15] Andrews, *City of Dust*, 31.
[16] Hannibal Plant – Universal Atlas Cement Co. "Safety Trophy Dedication" souvenir booklet. June 24, 1936.
[17] "Atlas Portland Cement Company," excerpt from *The Story of Hannibal* by Hurley and Roberta Hagood, published 1976. Published online via the Hannibal Free Public Library at http://hannibal.lib.mo.us/digital/ilasco/history_ilasco.htm.
[18] Hannibal Plant – Universal Atlas Cement Co. "Safety Trophy Dedication" souvenir booklet. June 24, 1936.
[19] Atlas Portland Cement Company," excerpt from The Story of Hannibal by Hurley and Roberta Hagood, published 1976. Published online via the Hannibal Free Public Library at http://hannibal.lib.mo.us/digital/ilasco/history_ilasco.htm. Accessed November 10, 2015.
[20] "Ilasco Is the Name Given the New K Line Station at the New Hannibal Cement Works," *The Quincy Daily Journal*, October 21, 1901. Published in the *Ilasco Area Newsletter* 12, no. 4 (2014), pg. 12.
[21] Hannibal Plant – Universal Atlas Cement Co. "Safety Trophy Dedication" souvenir booklet. June 24, 1936; Atlas Portland Cement Company," excerpt from The Story of Hannibal by Hurley and Roberta Hagood, published 1976. Published online via the Hannibal Free Public Library at http://hannibal.lib.mo.us/digital/ilasco/history_ilasco.htm. Accessed November 10, 2015.
[22] Hannibal Plant – Universal Atlas Cement Co. "Safety Trophy Dedication" souvenir booklet. June 24, 1936.
[23] Polc, "Continental Cement Co. to Build New Cement Kiln at Ilasco," *Ilasco Area Newsletter* 6, no. 1 (2008): 1.
[24] Hannibal Plant – Universal Atlas Cement Co. "Safety Trophy Dedication" souvenir booklet. June 24, 1936.
[25] Ibid.

Atlas knew that a large blue-collar workforce would be necessary to fulfill the demands of operating, so the company sent recruiters to eastern and southern Europe. Atlas even offered to pay the expense of travel to America, and in return, the laborer would repay the travel costs working for the company.[26] Seeking an opportunity for a better life, men began to arrive in Ilasco to work at the cement plant. They came from Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Ukraine.[27] Typically unable to speak fluent English, the newly-arrived laborers needed to live near the plant. Atlas began to construct housing for its workers within walking distance of the plant on company-owned land. As immigrants continued to arrive and settle in Ilasco and later summon their immediate family and other relatives from the motherland, the culturally diverse immigrant community of Ilasco developed. In 1910, seven years after Atlas began operating the Hannibal cement plant, the population of Saverton township in Ralls County (which included the community of Ilasco) numbered 3,075 – this total was nearly double the Saverton population of 1,460 in 1900![28] Rumanians and Slovakians comprised the largest portion of Ilasco's foreign-born white population in 1910, followed by Italians and Hungarians. A small amount of Ukrainians, Greeks, Poles, and Germans were also represented.[29] In contrast, Germans made up the largest percentage (38.5%) of immigrants among Missouri's foreign-born white population in 1910.[30] Ilasco's various eastern and southern European residents retained and celebrated their cultural traditions and languages, and businesses, fraternal halls, and churches were created to support the community (figures 7, 10, 13). The influx of Eastern European immigrants into the area to work at the cement plant dramatically changed the ethnic composition of Ralls County, whose first white settlers were mainly from Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia.[31] Only 297 immigrants were identified in Ralls County 1900, but by 1910, more than 1,200 immigrants lived in Ilasco.[32]

Local and county media outlets took heed of the new community. A news article in the *Ralls County Record* published on November 18, 1905, noted that Ilasco was rapidly growing in population, particularly to the south and west of the cement plant.[33] At the time, Ilasco had a grocery store, drug store, a meat market, and taverns, which were constructed on land leased from Atlas as well as from private individuals.[34] Distinct areas of company housing created by Atlas emerged; two of these were known as Pump House Hollow and Company Row. Pump House Hollow was the poorest of the company housing areas (figure 11).[35] It was comprised of sixteen identical houses arranged in two rows.[36] Each house was two stories with a gabled roof, measured about 18 by 30 feet, and was clad with concrete stucco. A shed-roof kitchen addition was located at the rear of the house, and residents went without running water or electricity.[37] The only source of water came from a

[26] David Polc, "The migration to Ilasco from Eastern and Southern Europe from 1903 through 1914," *Ilasco Area Newsletter* 6, no. 3 (2008): 2.
[27] "A 20th Century Company Town," *Ilasco Area Newsletter* 12, no. 4 (2014): 2.
[28] Andrews, "The War on Booze," 4.
[29] Ibid.
[30] Ibid.
[31] Ibid.
[32] Ibid.
[33] "Ilasco," *Ralls County Record*, November 18, 1905.
[34] Ibid; Andrews, "The War On Booze," 3.
[35] Pump House Hollow was demolished by Atlas in the early 1930s. Photograph description, "Three Residents of Pump House Hollow." Digital Collections of the Hannibal Free Public Library. Published online at http://hannibal.lib.mo.us/digital/ilasco/C10316.htm, accessed August 2015.
[36] Photograph Description, "Unknown Woman Poses at the Pump House." Digital collections of the Hannibal Free Public Library. Published online at http://hannibal.lib.mo.us/digital/ilasco/C10243.htm, accessed August 2015.
[37] Photograph description, "Three Boys in Pump House in LeBaume Hollow." Digital Collections of the Hannibal Free Public Library. Published online at http://hannibal.lib.mo.us/digital/ilasco/C10244.htm, accessed August 2015.

communal pump, lending the housing its name.[38] Some of the houses had fenced in backyards for raising chickens and tending gardens. Conditions in Company Row were only a slight improvement. Houses there had wood frame siding, no running water, and an outhouse (figure 12).[39]

The company housing constructed by Atlas was not fully meeting the housing demand. In 1907, Hannibal businessman Richard Stillwell acquired a tract of land to the east of the cement plan and the village of Ilasco, just south of where Marble Creek empties into the Mississippi River. Stillwell subdivided the tract of land into housing; this residential area eventually housed between 100 and 200 people, the majority of which were cement plant employees. While legally known as "Stillwell's Addition" the area came to be called "Monkey Run."[40] It is theorized that "Monkey Run" refers to the residents that worked for Atlas' blasting crew; these workers were nicknamed "powder monkeys."[41] In 1937, writer Lucy Latimer described the houses of Monkey Run as "ramshackle, but each has its garden plot."[42] Since the land on which Monkey Run is located was not owned by the cement company, its residents were not ordered to leave in the 1960s when the Highway 79 re-routing project was announced. However, the decline of available jobs at the cement plant did encourage some residents to relocate during that time. A 1972 article in the *Hannibal Courier-Post* about Anna Kolarik, the child of Slovakian parents, notes that many of the residents of Monkey Run at that time were children of the first wave of immigrant workers at the cement plant.[43]

From 1899 to 1910, Missouri ranked 12th among the states as the destination of immigrants entering the United States.[44]Initially, from 1903 to about 1907, Romanian immigrants made up Ilasco's largest foreign-born population, followed by Italians.[45] To serve the religious needs of the Romanians, an Eastern Orthodox priest, Father Moise Balea from St. Thomas Romanian Orthodox Church in St. Louis, would come to Ilasco and conduct services in the orthodox tradition.[46] An official church building was not established, however, there was a Romanian Hall organized by a local fraternal society. Formed in November of 1907, the society was called the Ardeleana Rumanian Beneficial Union.[47] This Romanian organization helped Ilasco workers financially by providing burial insurance. Religious services, including funerals, were held at the Romanian Hall. Unfortunately, deaths caused by accidents at the cement plant were an all too common occurrence.[48] After the funeral, the entourage would then walk the casket to Marble Creek Cemetery for burial.[49] Marble Creek Cemetery, located about a mile southwest of the nominated

[38] Photograph description, "Three Residents of Pump House Hollow." Digital Collections of the Hannibal Free Public Library. Published online at http://hannibal.lib.mo.us/digital/ilasco/C10316.htm, accessed August 2015.
[39] Photograph description, Three Girls in Pump House Hollow." Digital Collections of the Hannibal Free Public Library. Published online at http://digital.hannibal.lib.mo.us/ilasco/C10236.htm, accessed August 2015.
[40] Andrews, *City of Dust*, 47-48.
[41] Ibid, 48.
[42] Ibid, 251.
[43] Sandy Luipersbeck, "Mrs. Kolarik's Cookery is Part of her Slovak Heritage," *Hannibal Courier-Post*, July 26, 1972. Newspaper clipping published in the *Ilasco Area Newsletter* 7, no. 3, 2009, 4-5.
[44] Andrews, *City of Dust*, 32.
[45] In just one example, Romanian Petru Sirbu came to the United States in 1905, and along with his wife Mary, operated a tavern, butcher shop, and general store in Ilasco. Sirbu sometimes made trips to cities on the eastern seaboard to recruit labor for the cement plant. Andrews, *City of Dust*, 32; David Polc, "The migration to Ilasco from Eastern and Southern Europe from 1903 through 1914," *Ilasco Area Newsletter* 6, no. 3 (2008): 2.
[46] "The Romanians at Ilasco." Joe Welshmeyer. *Ilasco Area Newsletter* 12, no. 2 (2014): 13.
[47] Andrews, *City of Dust*, 74.
[48] In just one example, Romanian immigrant John Moga worked as a blaster in Atlas's quarries beginning in 1903. Moga's wife came to Ilasco in 1906, and the couple had four children before Moga tragically died in a quarry accident in 1920.; Andrews, City of Dust, 32.
[49] "Romanian Funeral, 1912." *Ilasco Area Newsletter* 11, no. 1 (2013):

district, is another one of the few remaining historic resources from Ilasco. Today, the cemetery contains a significant amount of Romanian headstones, handcrafted from cement from the plant, and engraved in the Romanian language. This cemetery is likely individually eligible for listing in the National Register.

The Ardeleana Rumanian Beneficial Union and the Romanian Hall were also means through which to celebrate Romanian heritage and facilitate community gatherings. Romanian culture was celebrated in annual parades in which participants dressed in traditional clothing and marched with American and Romanian flags.[50] After the parade, a banquet would be held in the Romanian Hall, typically followed by dancing and a play or skit conducted in the Romanian language.[51] These celebrations were not insular; anyone in Ilasco was welcome to participate and attend. Religious holidays such as Easter and Christmas were also a cause for extended celebration that featured traditional food, music, and dancing. Weddings were a social occasion and a rite of passage that prompted two or three days of traditional ceremonies.[52] The Romanian Hall no longer stands, but the Romanian immigrants and their descendants living in Ilasco during the period of significance would readily recognize the resources of the Ilasco Historic District as integral parts of the built environment.

Hungarians and Slovakians had also been arriving in Ilasco seeking economic opportunities. In Austria-Hungary, entrenched feudal patterns of land ownership limited economic advancement, and in Slovakia political powers sought to diminish the expression of traditional Slovakian culture; as a result, many emigrated in search of a way to support their families and traditions.[53] By 1910, when the nominated bridge, tavern, and jail had all been recently constructed, Slovakians were the largest immigrant group in Ilasco.[54] According to David Polc, a former Ilasco resident and the grandson of Stefan Polc who emigrated from Dobra Niva, Slovakia, to Ilasco in 1903, the greatest influx of Slovakian families into Ilasco was from 1903 to about 1914.[55] Slovakian immigrants who came to Ilasco to work in the cement factory would write letters back to the motherland, and in response additional Slovakians were convinced to emigrate (figures 19-20). The Slovakians in Ilasco were typically either of the Catholic or Evangelical Lutheran Christian faith, and churches were established to support both sects. Lutheran Slovakians organized a church in 1911, and a summer school and Slovakian meeting hall in 1916.[56] A traditional end-of-summer picnic was held by Lutheran Slovakians in Ilasco. The picnic, held on a Sunday after church, usually took place on a large farm on the outskirts of Ilasco and was a chance to celebrate Slovakian heritage through traditional foods such as rozki, strudla, and kraple and the singing of songs from the "Old Country."[57] Polc states that the Catholic and Lutheran Slovakians socialized, intermarried, and established a strong social and economic community in Ilasco; Polc states, "Hannibal was a place just to go shopping for items that [you] couldn't buy in Ilasco."[58] The grocery stores located in the

[50] Andrews, City of Dust, 232
[51] Ibid, 233.
[52] Ibid.
[53] Ibid, 33.
[54] Ibid, 34.
[55] Polc, *Ilasco Area Newsletter* 6, no. 1 (2008): 10-11; Polc, "The migration to Ilasco from eastern and southern Europe from 1903 through 1914," *Ilasco Area Newsletter* 6, no. 3 (2008): 2.
[56] Polc, "The migration to Ilasco from eastern and southern Europe from 1903 through 1914," *Ilasco Area Newsletter* 6, no. 3 (2008): 2.
[57] John Ukrop, Jr., "My Memories of Growing Up in Ilasco," *Ilasco Area Newsletter* 6, no. 1 (2008): 26.
[58] Polc, "The migration to Ilasco from eastern and southern Europe from 1903 through 1914," *Ilasco Area Newsletter* 6, no. 3 (2008): 2.

nominated commercial building throughout the period of significance were one of the local shopping resources for residents living in Ilasco.

Education was highly revered among many of the immigrant parents of Ilasco; many families in Ilasco wanted to facilitate their children's assimilation into American culture and stressed the importance of learning English and retaining Christian values.[59] The Marble Creek School, located at the southern periphery of Ilasco, was constructed in 1904, but was soon overcrowded. Grade school was also taught in the one-room Romanian Hall until 1914, when the Ilasco Public Grade School was constructed.[60] The Ilasco High School was constructed in 1926.[61] The grade school and high school buildings were located adjacent to one another and immediately to the southwest of the nominated district, on the west side of Ilasco Trail. The schools did not have a sizable parking lot, and walking was the primary mode of transportation for many of Ilasco's schoolchildren. Thus, the students having to traverse Marble Creek to get to school and back home would have to cross the nominated bridge. The grocery store in the nominated commercial building served as a post where children could get snacks and lunchtime meals, and when some children got older, as a place of employment. For example, Andy Babyak, Jr., the son of immigrant parents, recalls working in Stephen's Grocery Store (which operated in a storefront of the nominated building from 1931 to 1959).[62] Babyak opened the store at 6:30 a.m., and operated the store until school started. At lunch time, Babyak would be excused early to walk back to Stephen's Grocery Store and open it for business. Babyak recalls, "The school had no lunch program… Most kids always had a few cents to spend and would come to the store for lunch."[63] Hot dogs, soda, and potato chips were popular staples. The nominated commercial building still retains a painted advertisement for Pepsi. During the summer, Babyak worked from 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. six days of the week. Customers included laborers at the cement plant crossing the Marble Creek Bridge to get lunch at the grocery store and residents purchasing weekly necessities.

The Pavlovics were another European immigrant family that relocated to Ilasco. Stojadin Pavlovic, a Serbian, was married to Slovenian Maria Tetnik in the former country of Yugoslavia, and together the couple had two children before the advent of World War II. War divided the family and Stojadin was imprisoned by the German army. When the war ended in 1945, the Pavlovics were reunited and moved into a war refugee camp in Austria, where they had two more children. In 1950, the family immigrated to the United States by way of Ellis Island and was brought to Hannibal, Missouri, through the efforts of the Serbian National Defense Council of America. The family resided on a dairy farm as laborers. In the meantime, the established community of Ilasco had heard of the Pavlovics' arrival, and by 1951 Stojadin received an offer of employment at the cement plant. The Pavlovics found themselves among many others who spoke their native language, and in 1954 the family purchased a larger house in the Slovakian residential neighborhood of Ilasco (known informally as 'Hunktown') for $300. The house was located on company-owned land and the family was able to reside there until 1967, when the lease was ended by the company.[64] Today, the oldest

[59] Polc, Ilasco Area Newsletter 6, no. 1 (2008): 10-11.
[60] Ibid.
[61] Polc, "Ilasco Schools Memorial Monument," *Ilasco Area Newsletter* 7, no. 3 (2009): 1.
[62] Andy Babyak, Jr., "My Reflection on Stephen's Grocery," *Ilasco Area Newsletter* 7, no. 3 (2009): 2-3.
[63] Ibid.
[64] Laz Pavlovic and Debrinka Pavlovic Clark, "The Pavlovic Family was the Last European Immigrant Family to Arrive in Ilasco, Missouri," *Ilasco Area Newsletter* 6, no. 1 (2008): 4-5.

surviving former resident of Ilasco is Mildred Viglasky Martinovich, who turned 103 on August 14, 2014. She was born in Ilasco in 1914 to Slovakian immigrants John and Susan Viglasky.[65]

By the 1920s, Atlas gained ownership of a larger amount of the land comprising Ilasco, furthering the notion of the village as a company-owned town; reflecting this concept, Ilasco remained an unincorporated community.[66] Fueled by the 1929 stock market crash, Atlas and the Universal Cement Company merged in 1930, forming the Universal Atlas Company and becoming a subsidiary of the United States Steel Corporation.[67] The Depression era hit the portland cement industry hard, and the workers of Universal Atlas felt the blow. The Ilasco cement plant had employed 1,096 men in 1923. By 1934, only 374 workers were employed.[68] After 1933, New Deal programs such as the Public Works Administration spurred construction projects that involved cement, such as the Saverton Lock and Dam on the Mississippi River three miles south of Ilasco. This and other construction projects helped raise production at the Ilasco plant and provided jobs for unemployed Ilasco residents.[69] World War II further increased job opportunities at the Ilasco plant, as defense production was needed (figure 8). In 1943, Atlas workers unionized.[70] The vice-president of the newly-formed union, Local 205 of the United Cement, Lime, and Gypsum Workers International Union, was Charles Rache, a Hungarian immigrant and pastor of Ilasco's Church of the Nazarene.[71] Throughout the 1950s, Local 205 was an important institution for Atlas employees, many of whom (like Rache, Angelo Venditti, Steve Oslica, Andy Babyak, John Konko, Charles Kitsock, and others) were children of Ilasco immigrants.[72] Author and former Ilasco resident Gregg Andrews theorized that Atlas employees focused on building family bonds and cultural institutions in the decades after the Atlas strike of 1910, and Atlas employees generally did not feel empowered to unionize until the World War II era.[73]

After World War II, the era of prosperity in America encouraged the rise of leisure tourism, which in turn benefitted the economy in towns and regions that attracted tourists. In the 1950s, civic and business leaders in Hannibal were developing and promoting Hannibal's connection to author Mark Twain. Simultaneously, Hannibal's leaders desired improved road connectivity in the region as a way to attract business and tourists.[74] The city saw an opportunity in the proposed "Mississippi River Parkway," (also dubbed the "Great River Road")a highway network that would run along both sides of the Mississippi River and connect northern Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico.[75] Approximately 386 miles of the road would run through Missouri, and Hannibal business leaders desired the portion running between Hannibal and Saverton to pass directly by the Mark Twain Cave.[76] To accommodate this, and in the name of economic and civic progress, in 1960 Highway 79 was designed to be re-routed as part of the larger "Great River Road"; this plan took the road right through the heart of Ilasco.

[65] Polc, *Ilasco Area Newsletter* 12, no. 2 (2014): 10.
[66] Andrews, *City of Dust*, 4.
[67] Ibid, 257; Hannibal Plant – Universal Atlas Cement Co. "Safety Trophy Dedication" souvenir booklet. June 24, 1936.
[68] Andrews, *City of Dust*, 258.
[69] Ibid, 267.
[70] Ibid, 3.
[71] Ibid, 279.
[72] Ibid, 287.
[73] Ibid, 289.
[74] Ibid, 292.
[75] Ibid, 302.
[76] Ibid, 303-304.

Foreshadowing the dissolution of Ilasco, the Ilasco school system was annexed into the Hannibal school district in 1959, a measure Ilasco voters had opposed by a margin of three to one.[77] That year, the Ilasco High School was closed.[78] The Ilasco Post Office closed in 1960, and the Ilasco Grade School closed in 1962. The following year, cement officials informed all tenants on company-owned land that they must vacate.[79] Within a span of five years, the overwhelming majority of Ilasco residents lost their schools, and then their homes. U.S. Steel, parent company of Universal Atlas, provided the state with 22 acres of land in Ilasco for the re-routing of Highway 79 in exchange for rights of access along several points of the highway.[80] Universal Atlas then announced in 1964 that a new modern cement plant was to be built; while the new plant would be in Ilasco, it would implement several computerized processes, necessitating a drastic cut in human labor.[81] As Universal Atlas purchased several farms owned by immigrant families on the outskirts of Ilasco (to open up new quarries), residents in the path of the Highway 79 project were forced to leave. By 1965, Ilasco resembled a ghost town, as businesses, schools, and residences were razed to make way for Highway 79. Many Atlas employees took severance pay; others waited to see if their job would be outsourced to technology. When the new Ilasco cement plant was dedicated in 1967, the number of employees had dropped from 250 to 135.[82]

**Development and Significance of the Ilasco Historic District**

The Ilasco Jail was constructed in late 1909 and designed by the Pauley Jail Building and Manufacturing Company of St. Louis, Missouri.[83] On November 12, 1909, the *Ralls County Record* noted, "Ilasco has just finished the jail and we want to say to all who get unrully [sic] they had better look out for it is sure a sweat box … and is as dark as any night."[84] The Pauley Jail Building Company was founded in 1856 by Peter Joseph Pauley, Sr., a mechanic and blacksmith who previously worked repairing steamboats on the Mississippi River.[85] When the flourishing railroads began to present steep competition for steamboats, Pauley sensed a new opportunity for work in the expanding western frontier and transitioned into jail manufacturing. Pauley grew the business by promoting his technique of designing cells utilizing iron. By 1903, the Pauley Jail Building Company's reputation was such that the publication *Mercantile Professional and Industrial St. Louis* noted the company had invented and patented various jail and prison mechanisms and designs and was "highly valued by State, county and city authorities."[86] At the time of the jail's construction, Ilasco was a bustling town with several saloons for workers to relax and socialize after a long shift. In a town comprised of workers that labored in dangerous work conditions, the saloons were a welcome respite. Ilasco was no stranger to arguments and violence, and before the jail was constructed, anyone arrested by the local constable had to be transported to a jail in New London over eight miles away.[87] The Prosecuting Attorney of Ralls County, Jack Briscoe, estimated that of 275 arrests in the county in 1907, 122 of those were of immigrants in Ilasco.[88] County officials

[77] Andrews, *City of Dust*, 306-307.
[78] *Ilasco Area Newsletter* 7, no. 3 (2009): 29.
[79] Andrews, *City of Dust*, 311.
[80] Ibid.
[81] Ibid, 311-312.
[82] Ibid, 316.
[83] Polc, "The Ilasco Jail," *Ilasco Area Newsletter* 12, no. 3 (2014): 1.
[84] "Saverton," *Ralls County Record*, November 12, 1909.
[85] "Pauley Jail Building Company Celebrates 150 Year Anniversary," *The Ironworker* 106, no. 6 (2006): 2-3.
[86] Kargau, *Mercantile Professional and Industrial St. Louis* (St. Louis: Nixon Jones Printing Co., 1902), 312.
[87] "The Ilasco Jail." Ilasco Souvenir Book, Ilasco School Reunion, Ilasco Centennial Celebration, 1903-2003. Oct. 3, 2001, pg. 202.
[88] Andrews, *City of Dust*, 56.

decided that a jail in Ilasco was a necessity, and Atlas supplied the cement for the jail's construction. T.B. Wilson served as Ilasco's first jail keeper. While there are no records of the total number of arrests at the Ilasco Jail, intoxication was a common reason for incarceration.[89] During a strike by cement plant workers in April and May of 1910, the first year the jail was in use, the Governor was compelled to send the militia to Ilasco to quell "a state of lawlessness, tumult, [and] mob riot."[90] One can surmise that several residents of Ilasco saw the inside of the jail that year, justifiably or not. George Brown worked at the cement plant and also served as a constable of Ilasco until his unfortunate death in an accident at the plant in 1920.[91] During Prohibition, illegal alcohol production and sales became a more common reason for arrest. The last incarceration at the Ilasco Jail occurred in 1935 for public drunkenness, and the last constable was M.T. Hill.[92]

The exact building date of the brick commercial building in the district, known as Al's Tavern for its final occupying business, cannot be verified, but Ilasco historian and former resident David Polc estimates it was constructed c. 1909 in an area then recognized as Ilasco's business district.[93] A disastrous fire occurred in the area in 1906 and wiped out many commercial buildings, and this building was likely constructed relatively soon thereafter (figure 10).[94] Many of Ilasco's older commercial buildings were frame, but Al's Tavern was constructed with a concrete foundation and brick walls. It was also designed with residential quarters at the rear. The building's first owner was James Zugas, a Greek immigrant who worked for the cement plant. Zugas ran a saloon in the south storefront and general store in the north storefront of the building. During the cement plant workers strikes of 1909 and 1910, Zugas' saloon and the other saloons in Ilasco served as meeting halls for strikers, who at that time were not unionized and had no formal system of representation.[95] In February of 1914, Ralls County voted to prohibit the sale of alcohol, thus rendering saloons in Ilasco illegal. This same year, Zugas sold the building to Chris and Myrtle Miller.[96] The building housed the Miller General and Dry Goods Store, owned and operated by Chris Miller, from 1914 until his death in 1931.[97] Miller operated the general store out of the north storefront (figures 14, 18). The south storefront served various needs, including operating as a Sunday school for the Ilasco Methodist Church, as a voting precinct, and as a temporary courtroom for the Ilasco Justice of the Peace, a position also held by Miller.[98] The Miller family lived in the building until 1923, when they purchased a house in Ilasco. After Miller's death in 1931, John W. Stephens purchased the building and operated Stephens General Store. Stephens lived with his wife, Virginia, and their two daughters, Lois and Dorothy Mae, in the back of the south storefront and later in the second floor rear living space (figure 15). The Stephens lived in the building until 1939, and then resided in Saverton, Missouri.[99]

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[89] Andrews, *City of Dust*, 54.
[90] Ibid, 93. To read more about the strike of 1910, see *City of Dust*, Chapter 5 and Gregg Andrews, "Immigrant Cement Workers: The Strike of 1910 in Ilasco, Missouri," *Missouri Historical Review* 89, no. 2 (January 1995): 162-183.
[91] Andrews, City of Dust, 31.
[92] "The Ilasco Jail." Ilasco Souvenir Book, Ilasco School Reunion, Ilasco Centennial Celebration, 1903-2003. Oct. 3, 2001, pg. 202.
[93] Polc, "A Brief History of the Last Standing Commercial Building in Ilasco, Missouri." Ilasco Souvenir Book, Ilasco School Reunion, Ilasco Centennial Celebration, 1903-2003. Oct. 3, 2001.
[94] Polc, "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year," *Ilasco Area Newsletter* 6, no. 4 (2008): 1.
[95] Polc, "A Brief History of the Last Standing Commercial Building in Ilasco, Missouri." Ilasco Souvenir Book, Ilasco School Reunion, Ilasco Centennial Celebration, 1903-2003. Oct. 3, 2001, p. 212
[96] Ibid.
[97] Hannibal Free Public Library. http://digital.hannibal.lib.mo.us/ilasco/C10319.htm. Accessed 2 October 2015.
[98] Ibid.
[99] Polc, "A Brief History of the Last Standing Commercial Building in Ilasco, Missouri." Ilasco Souvenir Book, Ilasco School Reunion, Ilasco Centennial Celebration, 1903-2003. Oct. 3, 2001.

In the early 1900s, Ilasco was a bustling town with a population nearing a few thousand. By the time the Stephens purchased the store, Ilasco, like many towns and cities across the nation, was experiencing a population loss as individuals and families drifted in response to the pressures of the Great Depression. In 1935, likely in response to the tough economic times, Stephens moved the general store into the south storefront, and sold the north storefront (which is slightly larger) to Herman Barnes, who opened a tavern. While Prohibition had been repealed by this time, Ralls County only allowed the sale of beer with alcohol content no higher than 3.2%. In 1936, Barnes sold the tavern to Giovanni Scampoli and Francisco Gizzerli, two Italian immigrants; in 1939, Gizzerli sold the tavern to Albert Venditti, another Italian immigrant.[100] John Stephens maintained a store in the south half of the building until 1959 (the same year the Ilasco High School closed). From 1940 to 1959, Stephens employed locals to work in the store.[101] Prior to 1953, the Ilasco Grade and High Schools did not have a cafeteria. Many students would supplement their lunch with a drink or a snack from Stephens' store.

Albert Venditti gave the building its final namesake, Al's Tavern (figures 16-17). In 1939, Venditti installed two hardwood "duck pin" bowling alleys next to the south interior wall of the tavern and a twenty-foot long bar counter on the north interior wall. The rear portion of the building was used for card playing for the following thirty years. The bowling alleys were a fixture at Al's Tavern until 1946, when they were removed and the bar was transferred to the south interior wall. Ilasco residents remember team bowling that took place at the tavern every Sunday up to 1946. From the 1930s into the 1960s, Al's Tavern was a landmark location in the community where Ilasco's residents would meet and socialize.[102] In addition to card playing and bowling, patrons could play on a pinball machine, or just purchase a drink. The tavern was also where several churchgoers would find themselves on Sunday afternoon to have a beer before returning home.[103] By providing a shared social space for Ilasco residents, Al's Tavern became the primary place where people from various ethnic backgrounds could mingle and engage in conversation.[104] As well as serving a social function, Al's Tavern was, for some, the local bank. Venditti would cash checks for cement employees, particularly those that retained a distrust of formal banking institutions.[105] Venditti was also known to allow locals to purchase items from the store and tavern on credit and then give reimbursement on payday.[106] Al's Tavern remained the primary social gathering hub in Ilasco throughout the 1950s and into the 1960s.[107]

Al's Tavern managed to escape being demolished in the 1960s due to the savvy of the Venditti family. When it was first constructed, the building was on private land belonging to Samuel Heinbach.[108] Later, the cement company, called Universal Atlas at that time, acquired the land. In 1966, Al Venditti was able to negotiate with the cement company and achieve ownership of the land. Venditti did this by offering in exchange another parcel of land that he owned. Albert Venditti managed the tavern until his passing in 1987. Venditti's wife, Anna Sunderlik Venditti, kept the

[100] Ibid.
[101] Ibid, 212.
[102] Ibid, 211.
[103] "John Kuzma – The Golden Years of Enlightenment (1912-1915," *Ilasco Area Newsletter* 7, no. 3 (2009): 24.
[104] Venditti, himself of Italian ethnicity, married Anna Sunderlik, the daughter of Slovakian immigrants.; Andrews, *City of Dust*, 254.
[105] Polc, "A Brief History of the Last Standing Commercial Building in Ilasco, Missouri." Ilasco Souvenir Book, Ilasco School Reunion, Ilasco Centennial Celebration, 1903-2003. Oct. 3, 2001, pg. 211.
[106] Douglas Polc, "Ilasco Memories," *Ilasco Area Newsletter* 6, no. 4 (2008): 7.
[107] Ibid.
[108] Polc, "A Brief History of the Last Standing Commercial Building in Ilasco, Missouri." Ilasco Souvenir Book, Ilasco School Reunion, Ilasco Centennial Celebration, 1903-2003. Oct. 3, 2001, pg. 210.

tavern open until 1989. Mrs. Venditti passed away in 2000, and with the fate of the building unknown, the former residents of Ilasco felt driven to preserve Al's Tavern as a symbol of their shared heritage. Pace Local 5-205, the union for Continental Cement Plant workers, purchased the building from the Venditti estate a few years after Mrs. Venditti's passing in 2000. The rear upstairs living quarters now serves as an office for the union. The two storefronts are used as a union hall and meeting space.[109]

The Marble Creek Bridge, constructed in 1910, has been an integral part of Ilasco throughout the period of significance. By studying maps, both historic and current, of Ilasco, it is apparent that Marble Creek wound its way through the center of Ilasco, and bridges were necessary to allow Ilasco's residents to walk or drive between their home and work, schools, businesses, and places of worship. Marble Creek itself was prone to flooding. A 1933 map of Ilasco drawn by the Ralls County tax assessor illustrates the predominance of Marble Creek in the landscape of Ilasco (figure 7). The Marble Creek Bridge spanned a key area of Ilasco, where Marble Creek ran between the cement plant and Ilasco's business district and several residences. An ad for Al's Tavern used the Marble Creek Bridge as a geographic identifier for the business (figure 17). The construction of the Marble Creek Bridge facilitated the movement of Ilasco's residences as they engaged in their everyday routines as well as significant traditions. The Marble Creek Bridge is still owned and maintained by Ralls County.

**Conclusion**

The Ilasco Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A for Ethnic Heritage as an important component of the historic commercial area of what was once the thriving immigrant community of Ilasco. The Atlas Portland Cement Company's need for labor led to the establishment of Ilasco in 1903. Men, women and children from eastern and southern Europe came to Ilasco to work at the plant and build a better way of life. The period of significance of the Ilasco Historic District begins in 1909 with the construction of the jail and the brick commercial building (later known as Al's Tavern) and ends in 1965, by which time the majority of the community had been forced to relocate. The Marble Creek Bridge, Al's Tavern, and the Ilasco Jail were all important elements of the community that survived the re-routing of Highway 79 in the 1960s which ultimately compelled Ilasco's dispersal. The Ilasco Area Historical Preservation Society, formed in 2000 and comprised of former residents of Ilasco and their descendants, has worked steadily to tell the unique story of those who called Ilasco home. In the words of one former resident, "Ilasco old friend you rode off into the sunset one evening and never returned. We dearly miss you."

[109] Polc, "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year," *Ilasco Area Newsletter* 6, no. 4 (2008): 1.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The National Register boundary of the Ilasco Historic District is drawn using natural and man-made features upon the land (see Figure 4). Beginning at the northwest corner of the bridge over Marble Creek, it continues southward along Ilasco Trail. At the terminus of Ilasco Trail, the boundary then extends to the east to encompass the Ilasco Jail, and then returns north and follows the base of a steep wooded hill that rises behind the jail and Al's Tavern. Where the boundary meets the north bank of Marble Creek, it then returns west along the bank, encompassing the bridge and ending where the north end of the bridge converts back to the road. The Ilasco Historic District contains three contributing resources: the Ilasco Jail, Al's Tavern, and the Marble Creek Bridge.

**Boundary Justification**

While legal parcels or plats are typically used to delineate boundaries for commercial historic districts, that method was not appropriate in this case. The land upon which the built environment of Ilasco was located was predominantly owned by the Atlas Portland Cement Company and its future line of owners. It was this system of company ownership that allowed for the relatively quick demolition of the majority of Ilasco in the mid-1960s to make way for the re-routing of Highway 79. The Ilasco Historic District features two private owners; the tavern is owned by a local union, while the jail is part of a legal parcel owned by the Continental Cement Company that is over a hundred acres large. Ralls County owns the bridge. Rather than using legal parcels, natural features that were present during the period of significance and recognizable by Ilasco residents are used to define the boundaries. This includes Marble Creek and the steep hill to the rear of the tavern and the jail. Ilasco Trail, a road that existed during the period of significance, is also used. Non-contributing buildings and objects at the periphery of this boundary were excluded from the district. These include the Ilasco Memorial, non-contributing due to its recent age of construction, which is located to the north of the historic district, and the Ilasco Methodist Church, which is located to the west of the historic district and has lost architectural integrity due to replacement vinyl siding and windows. The former site of the Ilasco schools contains partial foundation remains of the buildings, but it is unknown to what extent the overall site has been damaged and altered due to the re-routing of Highway 79. There are potentially other resources associated with the immigrant community of Ilasco that are individually eligible for listing in the National Register. These could be evaluated and nominated as separate listings from this district.

Figure 1. Contextual map showing Ilasco Historic District in relation to Hannibal. Source: ArcGIS Explorer Online, https://www.arcgis.com/explorer/, accessed November 2015. Map modified by author.

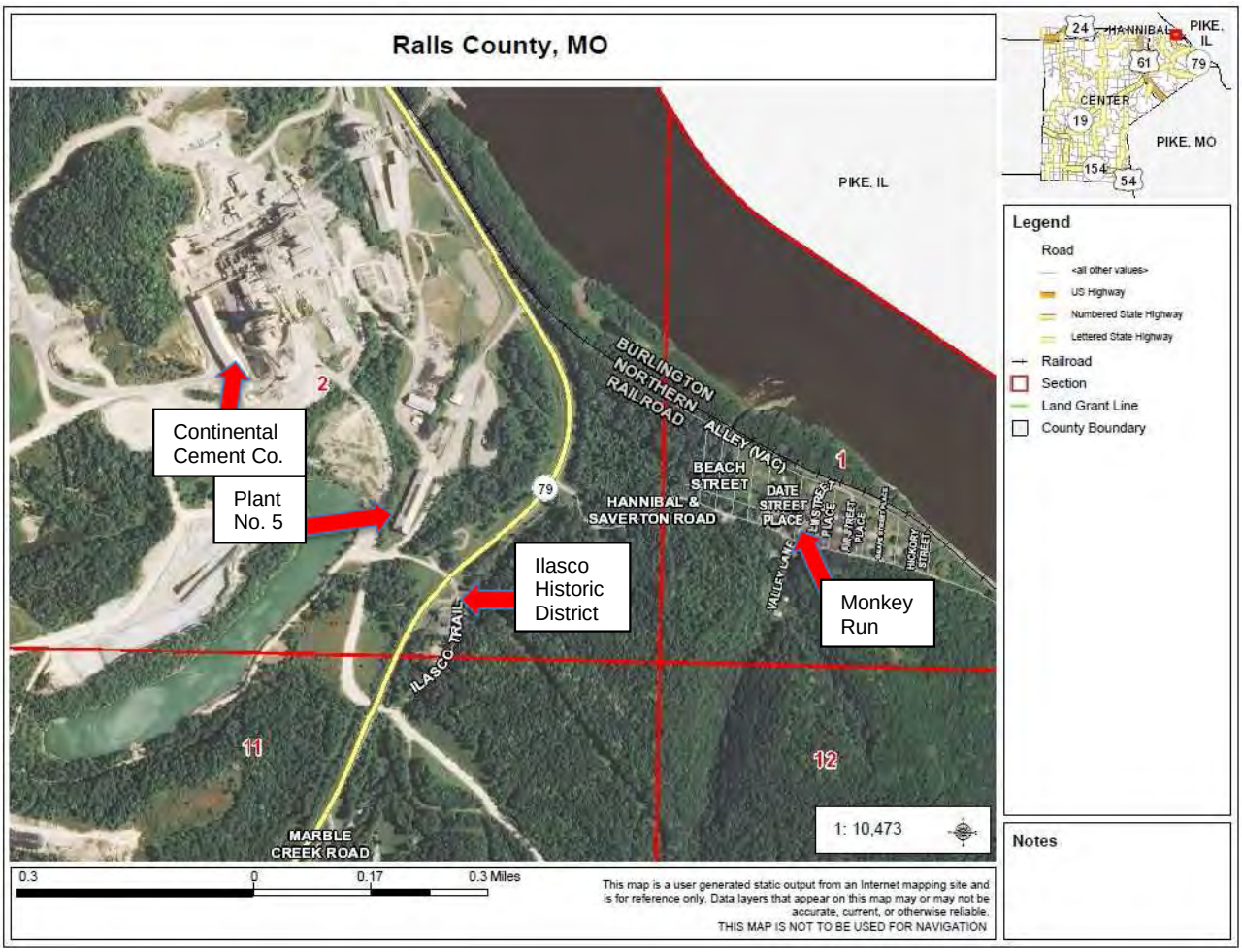


Figure 2. Contextual map showing relation of the Ilasco Historic District to the Continental Cement Company facilities (including Plant No. 5), the suburb of Monkey Run, and the Mississippi River. Source: Ralls County GIS, www.rallscogis.com, accessed October 2015. Map modified by author.

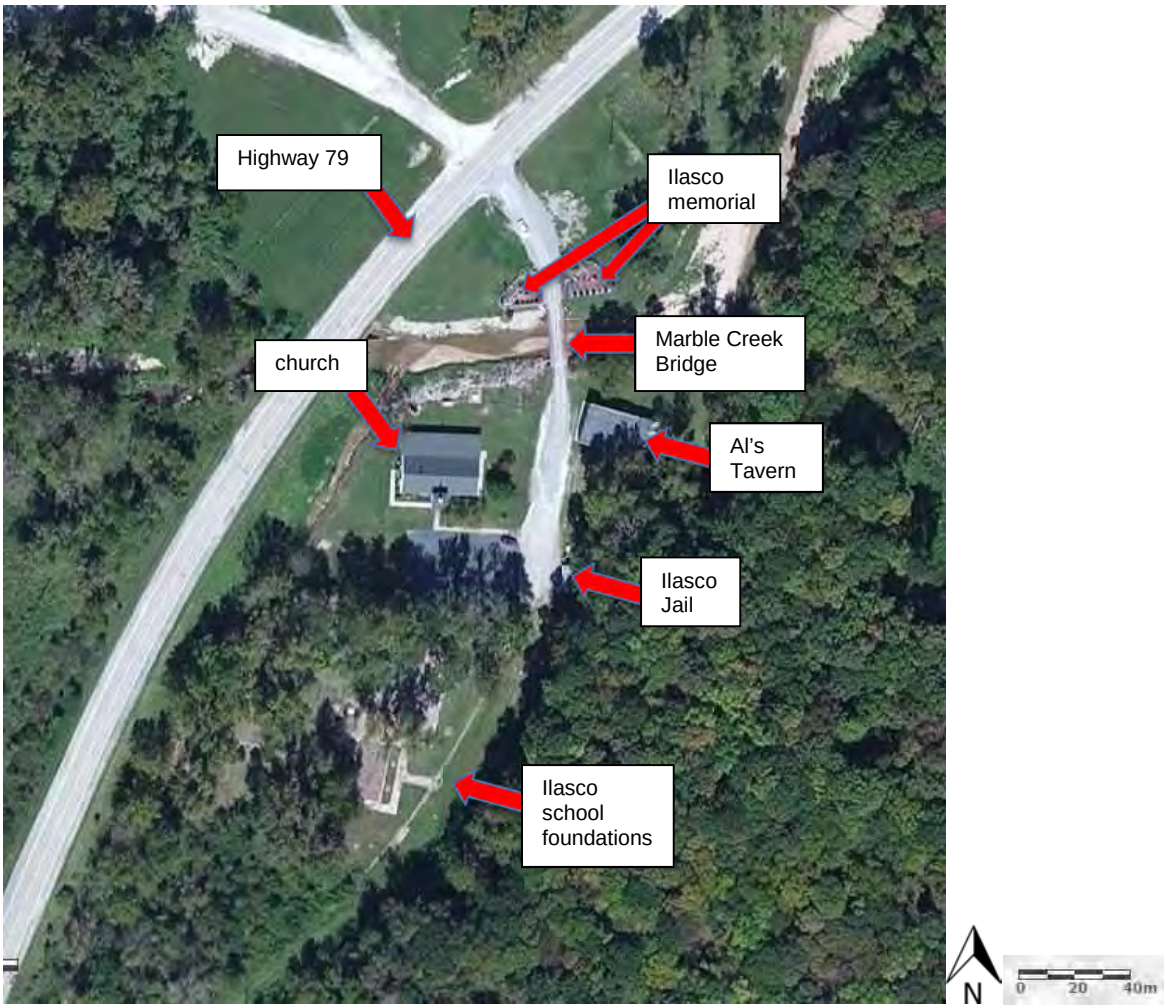


Figure 3. Labeled setting map. Source: ArcGIS Explorer Online, https://www.arcgis.com/explorer/, accessed December 2015. Map modified by author.

**Key**

| Resource | Status |
|---|---|
| Highway 79 | Not within NR Boundary |
| church | Not within NR Boundary |
| Ilasco memorial | Not within NR Boundary |
| Marble Creek Bridge | Within NR Boundary, Contributing Structure |
| Al's Tavern | Within NR Boundary, Contributing Building |
| Ilasco Jail | Within NR Boundary, Contributing Building |
| Ilasco school foundations | Not within NR Boundary |

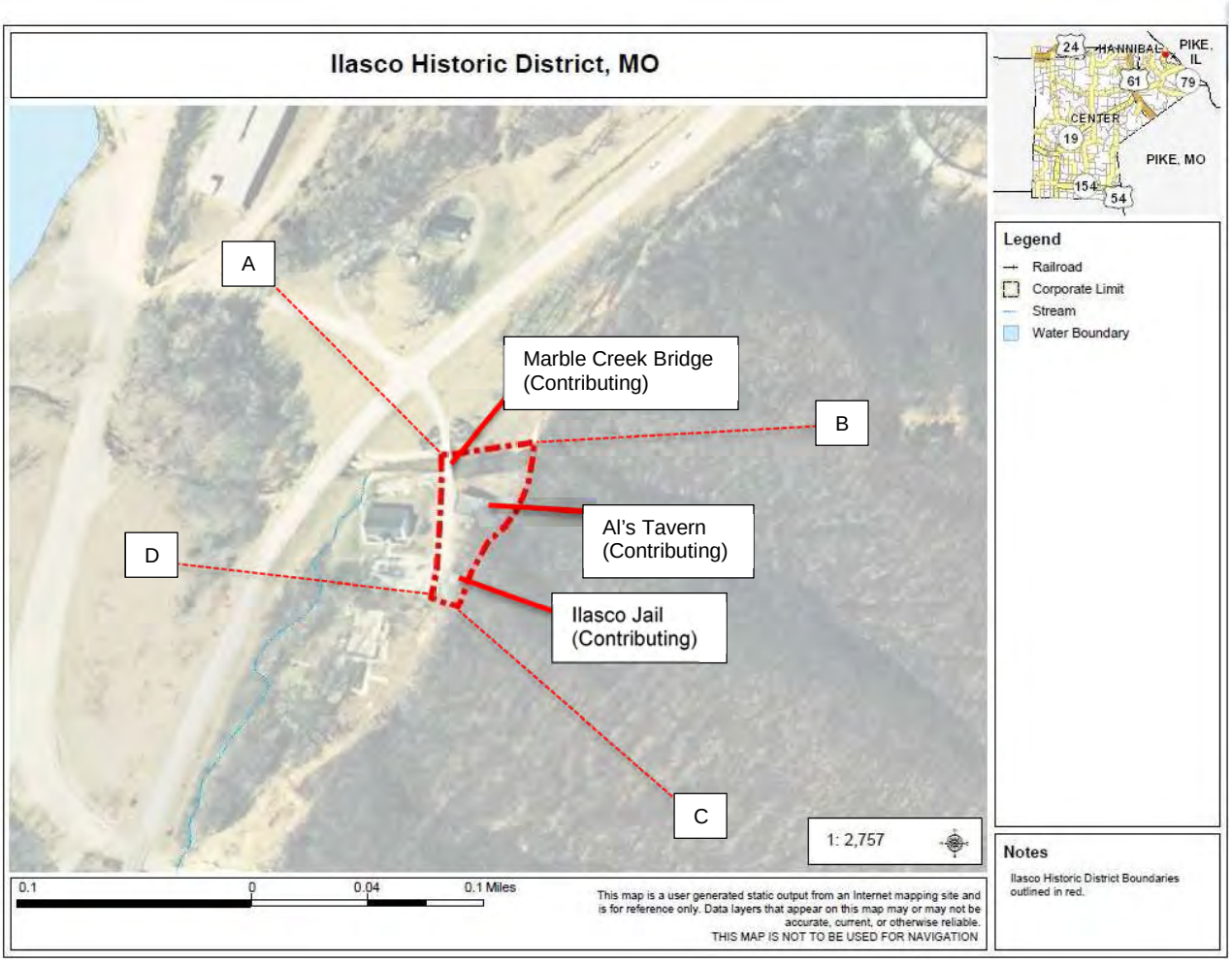


Figure 4. Ilasco Historic District Boundary and Resource Map. Source: Ralls County GIS, www.rallscogis.com, accessed October 2015. Map modified by author.

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

A. 39.671238, - 91.309564

B. 39.671291, - 91.308948

C. 39.670478, - 91.309441

D. 39.670512, -91.309583

N

Figure 5. Photo Key. Source: Google Maps, accessed November 2015. Map modified by author.

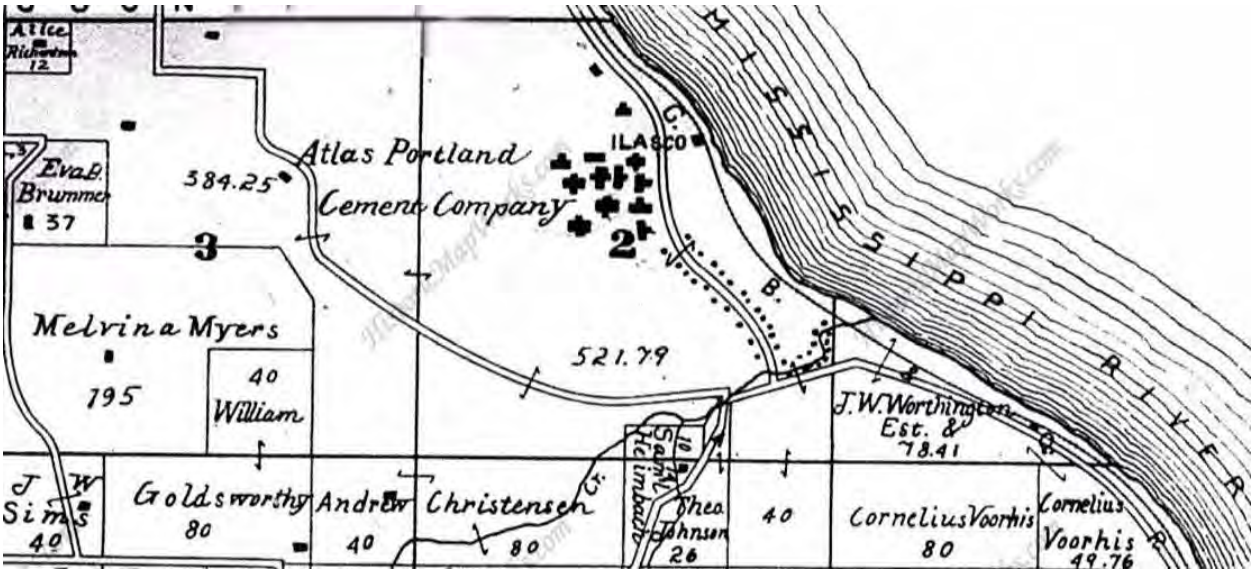


Figure 6. 1904 map showing land holdings of the Atlas Portland Cement Company, including Ilasco. Source: 1904 Atlas of Ralls County, compiled by S.S. Carroll & Company. Published online at www.historicmapworks.com, accessed October 2015.

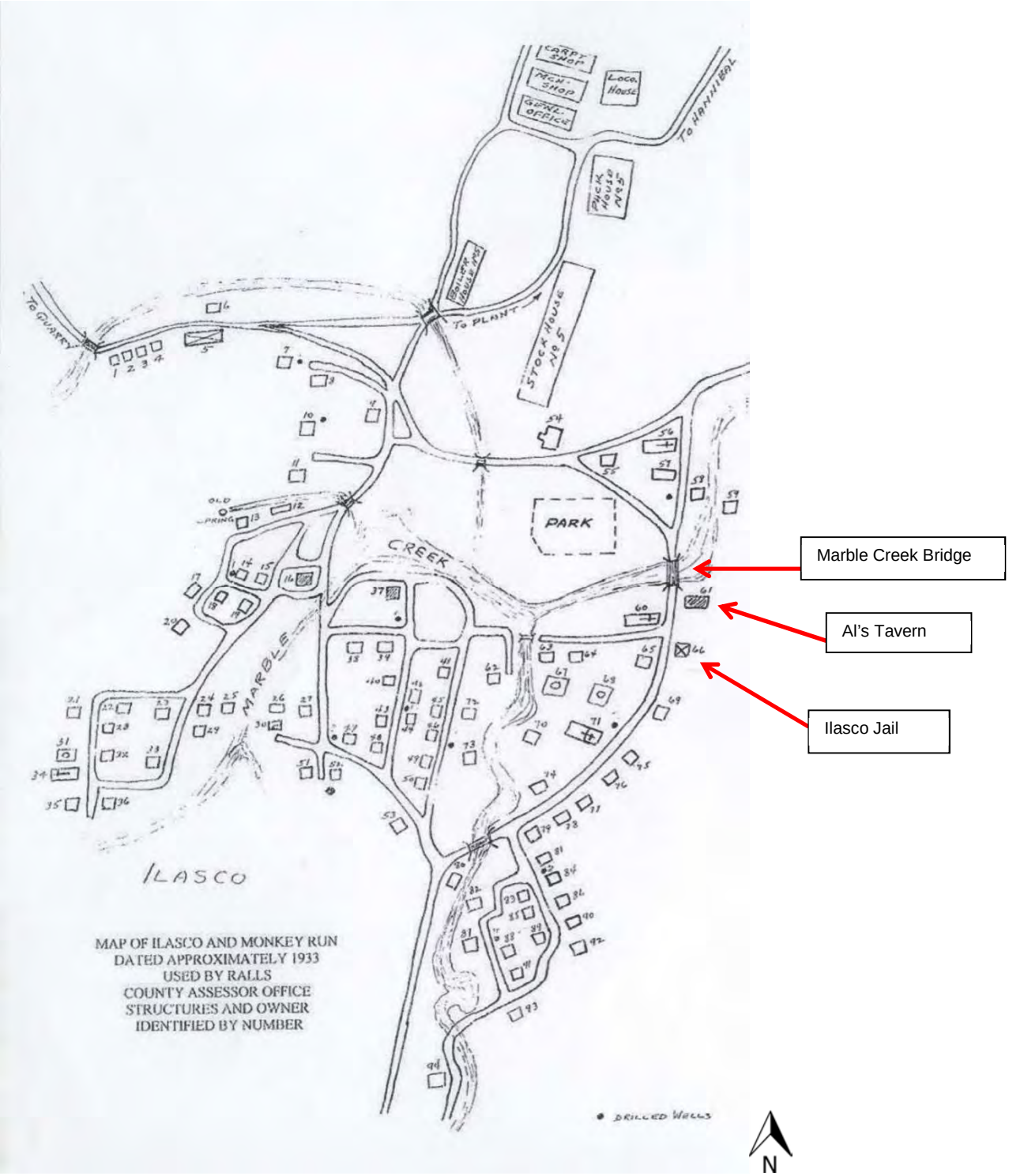


Figure 7. 1933 map of Ilasco drawn by Ralls County Assessor. Source: David Polc, Ilasco Area Historical Preservation Society.

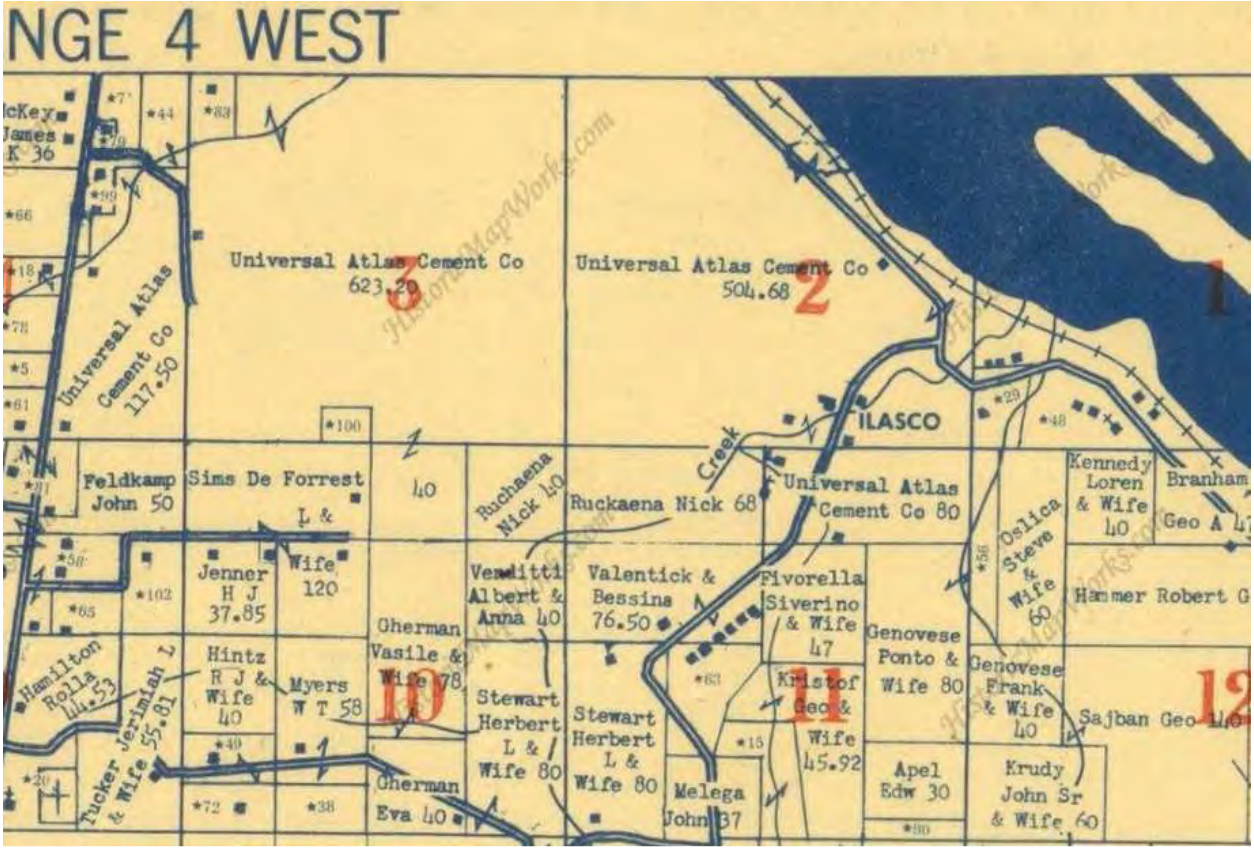


Figure 8. 1946 map showing land holdings of the Universal Atlas Cement Company, including Ilasco. Source: Ralls County 1946 Atlas, compiled by Artcraft Company. Published online at www.historicmapworks.com, accessed October 2015.

Figure 9. Atlas Portland Cement Company's Plant No. 5 is seen in the background, c. 1903. In the foreground a few tents and small dwellings can be seen. Source: Digital Collections of the Hannibal Free Public Library, *Immigrant Community of Ilasco, Missouri*. Published online at http://hannibal.lib.mo.us/digital/ilasco/ilasco.htm, accessed September 2015.

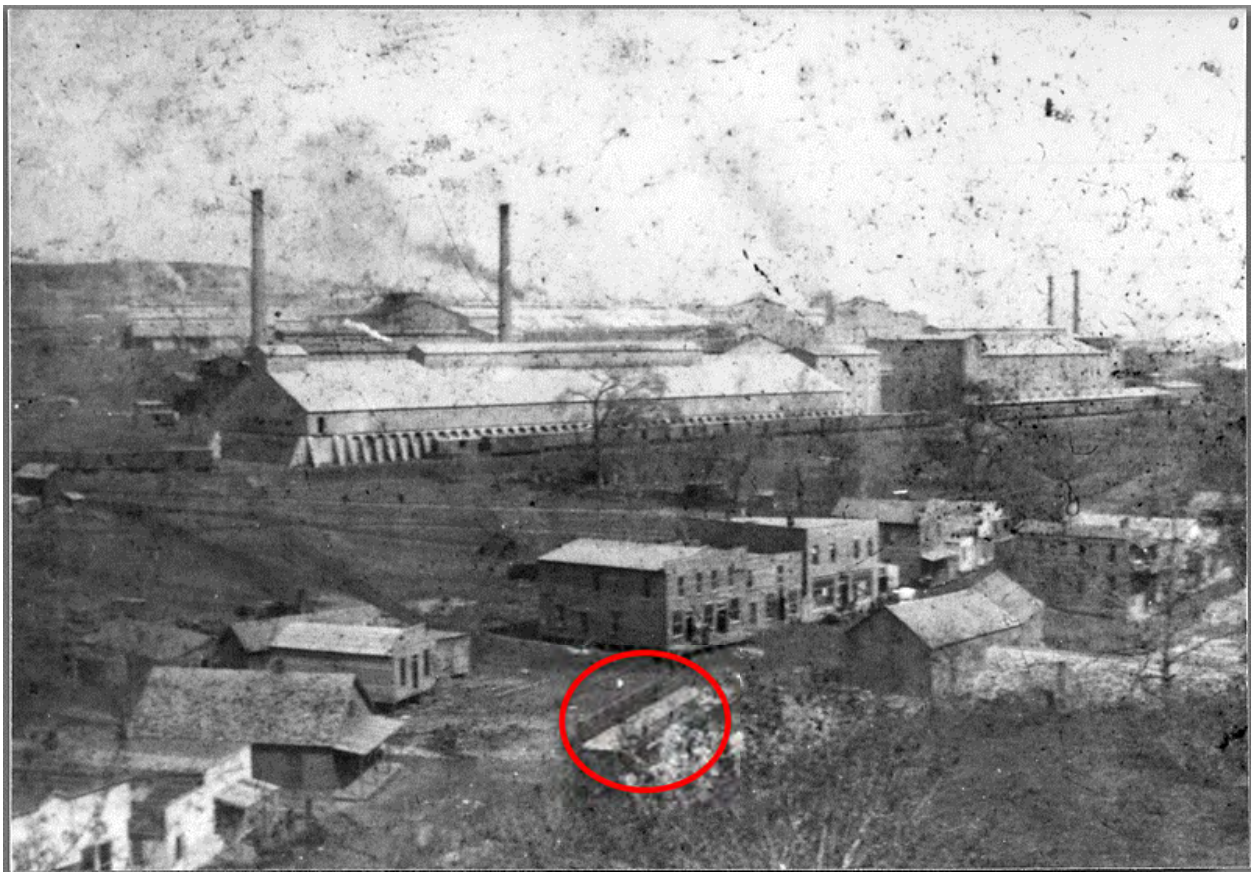

Figure 10. Circa 1905 photograph of the Ilasco business district with the cement plant in the background. This photograph was taken before a fire in March of 1906 destroyed many of the business buildings. The wood bridge across Marble Creek (circled in red) was replaced by the steel bridge in the nominated district in 1910. Plant No. 5 in the background is still standing today. Source: Gregg Andrews, "Ilasco Cement Workers and the War on Booze in Ralls County, Missouri, 1903-1914," *Gateway Heritage* 16 (Spring 1996): 4.

Figure 11. Circa 1919 photograph of the Loguda family in front of company housing called Pump House Hollow. Mary Loguda (top row, left) worked for Atlas repairing the sacks used to ship cement. Source: Digital Collections of the Hannibal Free Public Library, *Immigrant Community of Ilasco, Missouri*. Published online at http://hannibal.lib.mo.us/digital/ilasco/ilasco.htm, accessed September 2015.

Figure 12. Circa 1920 photograph of three unidentified girls in front of a house in Company Row. Source: Digital Collections of the Hannibal Free Public Library, *Immigrant Community of Ilasco, Missouri*. Published online at http://hannibal.lib.mo.us/digital/ilasco/ilasco.htm, accessed September 2015.

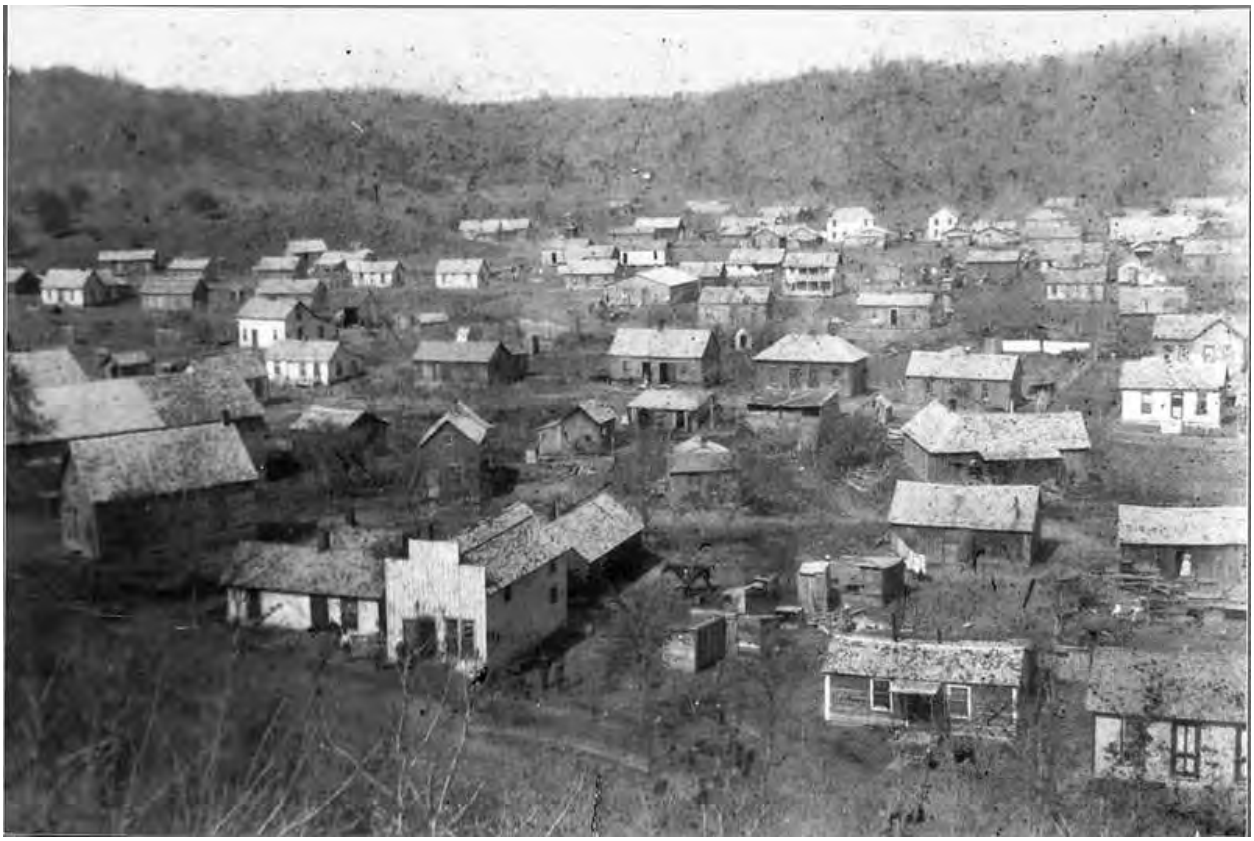

Figure 13. Circa 1910 photograph of Ilasco taken from the hill behind the Ilasco Jail, view west-southwest. None of these buildings remain today. Source: Digital Collections of the Hannibal Free Public Library, *Immigrant Community of Ilasco, Missouri*. Published online at http://hannibal.lib.mo.us/digital/ilasco/ilasco.htm, accessed November 2015.

Figure 14. Photograph of the nominated tavern taken c. 1920 when it was Miller's Dry Goods and Notions. Source: Digital Collections of the Hannibal Free Public Library, *Immigrant Community of Ilasco, Missouri*. Published online at http://hannibal.lib.mo.us/digital/ilasco/ilasco.htm, accessed August 2015.

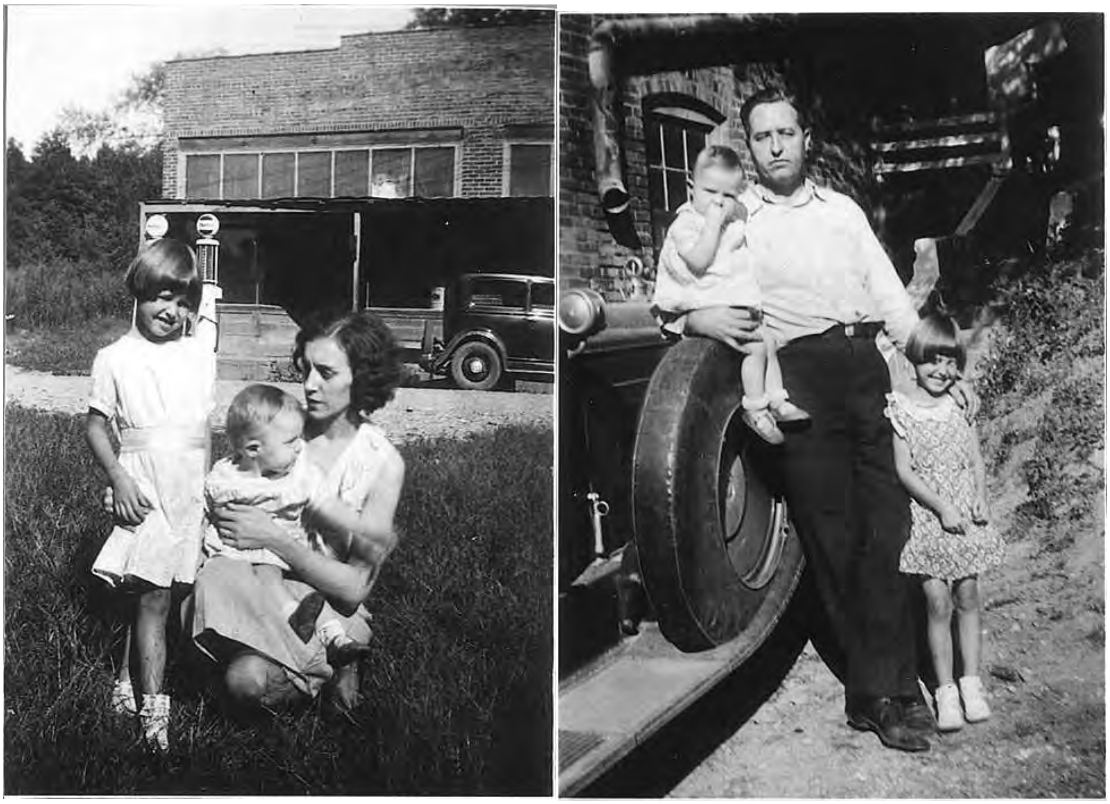

Figure 15. (Left) Virginia Roach Stephens and daughters in front of the Stephens General Store. (Right) John W. Stephens and daughters by the family Pontiac, parked next to Stephens General Store. Both photographs taken c. 1936. Source: Digital Collections of the Hannibal Free Public Library, *Immigrant Community of Ilasco, Missouri*. Published online at http://hannibal.lib.mo.us/digital/ilasco/ilasco.htm, accessed August 2015.

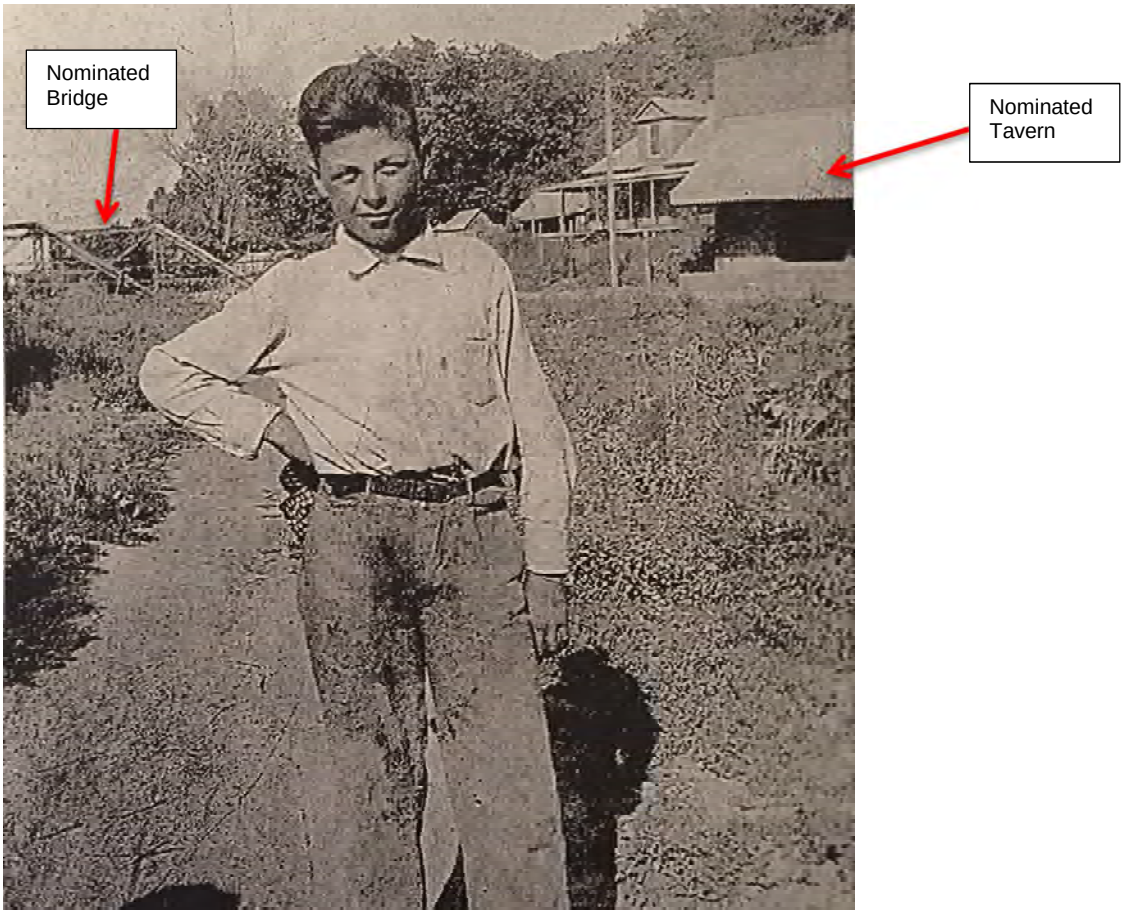


Figure 16. Circa 1924 photograph of Al Venditti at age 12. The nominated bridge is in the background, left, and the nominated tavern (which Al would eventually own) is in the background, right. The house behind the tavern was demolished in the early 1930s. Source: "The Italians of Ilasco." *Ilasco Area Newsletter* 6, no. 1 (2008): 3.

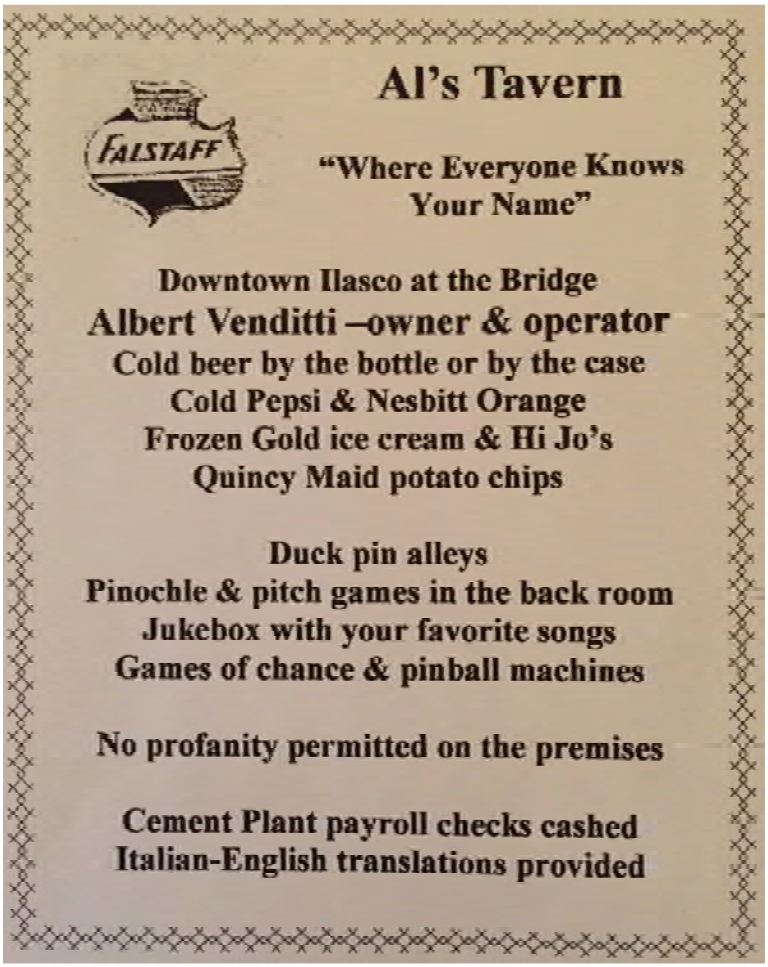


Figure 17. Pre-1946 advertisement for Al's Tavern. Notice the mention of "the bridge" as a way to identify the location. Also note the offer of Italian to English translations. Source: Ilasco Souvenir Book, Ilasco School Reunion, Ilasco Centennial Celebration, 1903-2003. Oct. 3, 2001: pg. 251.

Figure 18. Late 1920s image of the nominated tavern when it was owned by the Millers. Notice the nominated bridge at the left and the gas pumps in front of the store. The building on the other side of the bridge was a barber shop owned by Ilasco resident Clarence Cooper. Source: Digital Collections of the Hannibal Free Public Library, *Immigrant Community of Ilasco, Missouri*. Published online at http://hannibal.lib.mo.us/digital/ilasco/ilasco.htm, accessed August 2015.

Figure 19. Circa 1943 photograph of two young women of Ilasco, Susan Kisel and Mary Valach, posing in their traditional Slovakian dresses. Source: Digital Collections of the Hannibal Free Public Library, *Immigrant Community of Ilasco, Missouri*. Published online at http://hannibal.lib.mo.us/digital/ilasco/ilasco.htm, accessed August 2015.

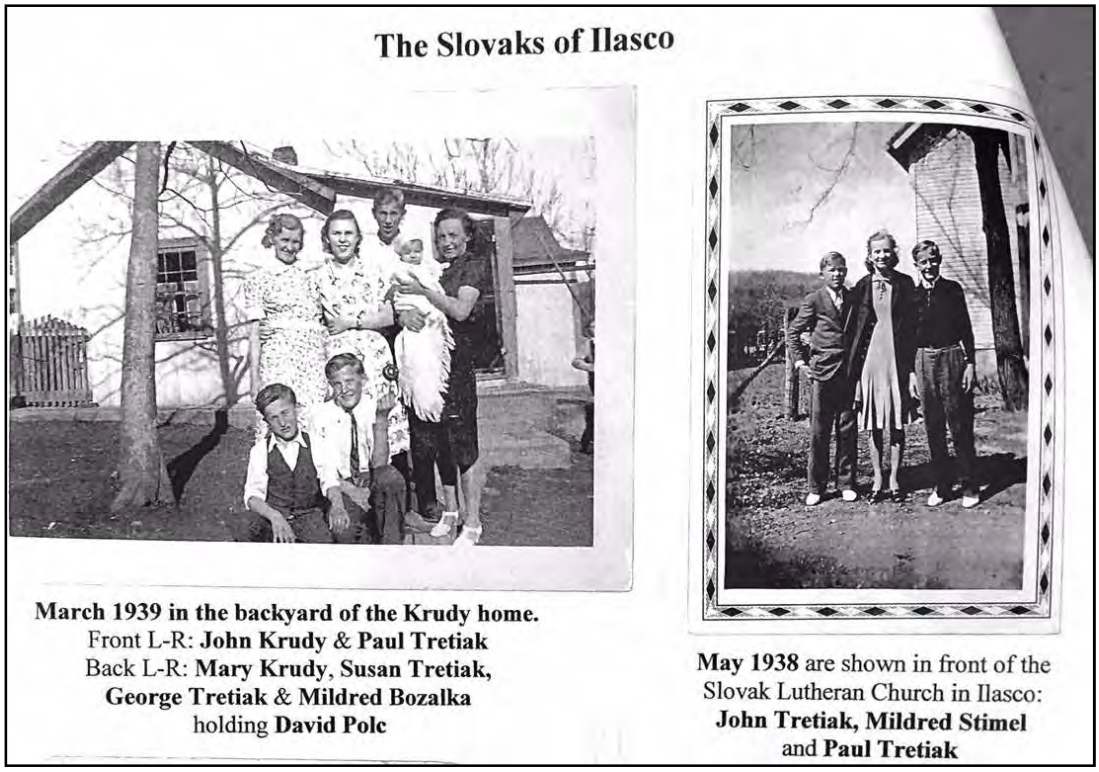


Figure 20. Late 1930s photographs of Slovakian residents of Ilasco. Source: Paul Tretiak, *Ilasco Area Newsletter* 7, no. 3 (2009), 6.

Figure 21. Former site of the Ilasco Grade School, High School, and gymnasium, located to the southwest of the historic district. Source: Author, June 2015.

Figure 22. Historic bunk bed located inside the Ilasco Jail. Each bunk bed slept up to four people, and there is one bunk bed in each cell (the jail has two cells). Source: Author, August 2014.

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1910
BUILT BY
STUPP BRO'S
BRIDGE & IRON CO.
ST LOUIS MO.
J. PRIEST PRESIDING JUDGE
J.H. HOLLOWAY
M.T. GILL
ASSOCIATE JUDGES
R.A. BRISCOE COUNTY CLERK
A.V. ELY HIGHWAY ENG'R

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