



KANKAKEE COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

189 E. COURT STREET, SUITE 201 • KANKAKEE, ILLINOIS 60901
815/937-2940 • (Fax) 815/937-2974

HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION FORM

Please print or type all requested information.

1. PROPERTY INFORMATION

Common Name: Durham-Perry Farmstead

Historic Name: Durham-Perry Farmstead

Address (Include Street #, City, and Zip): 459 North Kennedy Drive, Bourbonnais, IL 60914

Site Address: 1095 W. Perry, Bourbonnais, IL 60914

Township: 30 Section: 31N Range: 12E

Names of Roads at Closest Intersection: North Street and Kennedy Drive

2. COMMISSION STAFF USE ONLY

Document Number: _____

Application Complete? _____ Yes _____ No

Date Received _____

Staff Acknowledgment: _____

Commission Meeting Date: _____

Action: _____ HPC _____ PZA _____ County Board

Distribution Date:

_____ Kankakee County Historic Preservation Commission

_____ Kankakee County Planning, Zoning & Agriculture Commission

_____ Kankakee County Board

3. PROPERTY CLASSIFICATION

Category of Property:

☒ Buildings _____ Structure _____ Object ☒ Site _____ Historic District _____ Landscape

Ownership of Property:

_____ Private ☒ Public-local _____ Public-State _____ Public-Federal

Original Construction Date 1840



Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>7</u>		buildings (farm house, horse barn, pump house, milk house, three-bay English barn, tool shed, and garage)
<u>1</u>		site (Durham Memorial/Grave)
_____		structures
_____		objects
<u>8</u>		Total

Number of contributing resources with previous landmark status:

_____ Kankakee County
_____ Illinois
X National Register—added in 2006, #06000445

Attach a copy of previous nomination form.

4. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic Functions: Pioneer farmstead—agriculture/subsistence, animal facility, storage, domestic single dwelling,

Current Functions: Administrative offices of Bourbonnais Township Park District (farm house), storage facilities for park district (horse barn, three-bay English barn, milk house, pump house, tool shed, and garage), shelter for animals (three-bay English barn), and open air museum during Durham-Perry Farmstead open houses and other BTPD events—agriculture/subsistence, government office, storage, maintenance.

5. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification:

Farm House: Greek Revival
Barns and Garage: English style

(Enter categories)

Foundation: limestone (farm house)
Walls: timber with bark frame beams (three-bay English barn; hand hewn lumber (farm house and horse barn);
Frame (garage, tool shed, and pump house);
Concrete block (milk house)
Roof: cedar shake and composition shingle
other _____



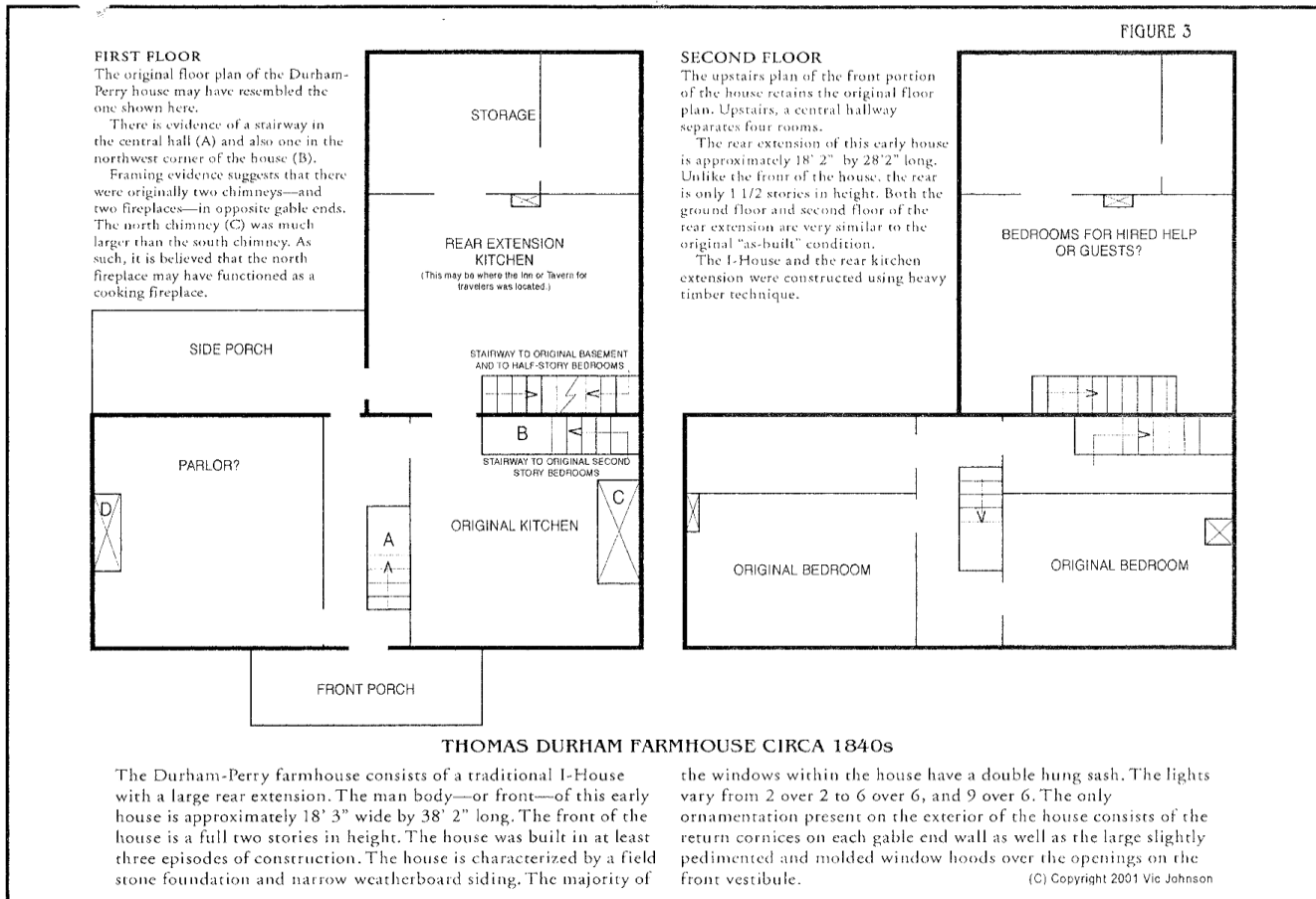
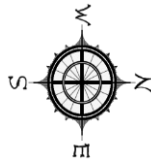
Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

The Farm House

The Durham-Perry Farm House is a two-story, wood-framed, Greek Revival style dwelling with a modified rectangular plan, an intersecting gable roof, a front porch and a rear porch. The front porch (formal entrance) was moved to the southeast corner of the house in the mid nineteenth-century to allow for the addition of a new stairwell to the second floor. The exterior walls are clapboard siding, the roof exterior is cedar shake shingles, the chimney is fashioned with brick, and the foundation is composed of limestone. Multi-paned windows with original glass still exist on the house exterior along with ornamental pediments that frame many of the windows. As it exists today, the house resides on a reminiscent limestone foundation which was an abundant rock in this region in that time period. The house is located on Kennedy Drive and its front faces northeast. The house is in excellent condition and has had window and roof restorations since 1988 when the farm house was acquired by the Bourbonnais Township Park District.

Thomas and Marguerite “Peggy” Durham built the farm house in 1840. The house might have looked like an “T” house (two stories, two rooms wide, one room deep, a central hallway upstairs and down, and a central stairway). This type of home construction was known as a “tidewater stack house”. There is also evidence of a stairway in the NW corner of the house and two brick chimneys in opposite gable ends—the north chimney was much larger than the south chimney. The north chimney may have functioned as the cooking fireplace with the kitchen located as the north downstairs room. The parlor was in the current south room on the first floor. The upstairs primarily consisted of two bedrooms. Under the drawing on the next page, local historian Vic Johnson states the original dimensions and construction characteristics of the home. The exterior ornamentation of the home is characteristic of the Greek Revival architectural style.



In the drawing above, the original "I" shape of the house extended north and south facing the east. The two stories included the central hall upstairs and downstairs with one room on either side of the halls, central stairwell, northwest stairway, front porch on the east, and two chimneys (one on the north and one on the south). There was a detached summer kitchen off the northwest corner of the home. The home was eventually altered by Durham to accommodate his large family and perhaps better accommodate travelers since part of the farm house was used as a lodging place for people on the Chicago-Danville Road. Between the 1930s and the 1980s, the early floor plan was again modified by tenant farmer Francis DuVoisin, who occupied part of the house during that time. See floor plan below on page 7.

The house was built in at least three interpretive divisions of construction identified as the following: *early* (1840 to late nineteenth-century), the *1920s*, and *late* (1935 to 1963). Historian Vic Johnson speculates that one reason for altering the shape of the home in the mid to late nineteenth-century (two upstairs bedrooms, a lower rear kitchen or tavern on the northwest, a storage room on the west, and a side porch on the southwest) may have been that more room was needed in the farm house to accommodate overnight travelers on the Chicago-Danville Road and for the hired help. Additionally, the east formal entrance and front porch were remodeled in the 1860s. From the 1920s to the year 1963, the nineteenth-century floor plan was modified by tenant farmer Francis DuVoisin, who occupied an apartment in the house during much of that time.

Remodeling and room conversions in the twentieth-century included: 1) the original kitchen became a dining room at the center of the room and a kitchen on the north side of the room, 2) the first floor west extension kitchen or tavern became an apartment living room with an attached bedroom, 3) an additional dining room and

kitchen were added on the northwest first floor, 4) the upstairs bedrooms were divided into six bedrooms with a storage room on the northwest, 5) and two bathrooms (upstairs and downstairs) were added.

The farm house inhabitants of the Durham-Perry family included Thomas Durham, his wife Peggy (Marguerite), their twelve children, their additional daughter Martha with her husband David Perry and David and Martha's four children. Alvah Perry, the only surviving son of David and Martha, received quit claim deeds to the farm from the surviving heirs of Thomas Durham in 1891. Since Alvah did not farm (he worked at the Chicago Union Stock Yards), a tenant farmer planted and harvested crops on the farm. Alvah, his wife Ida (1858-1940), and their three daughters (Bertha, Sarah, and Lomira) spent summers and holidays on the farm. Lomira Perry was the last descendant of David Perry to live in the farm house during her education career at Kankakee High School.



The Durham-Perry Farm House as it looks today (looking toward the northwest).



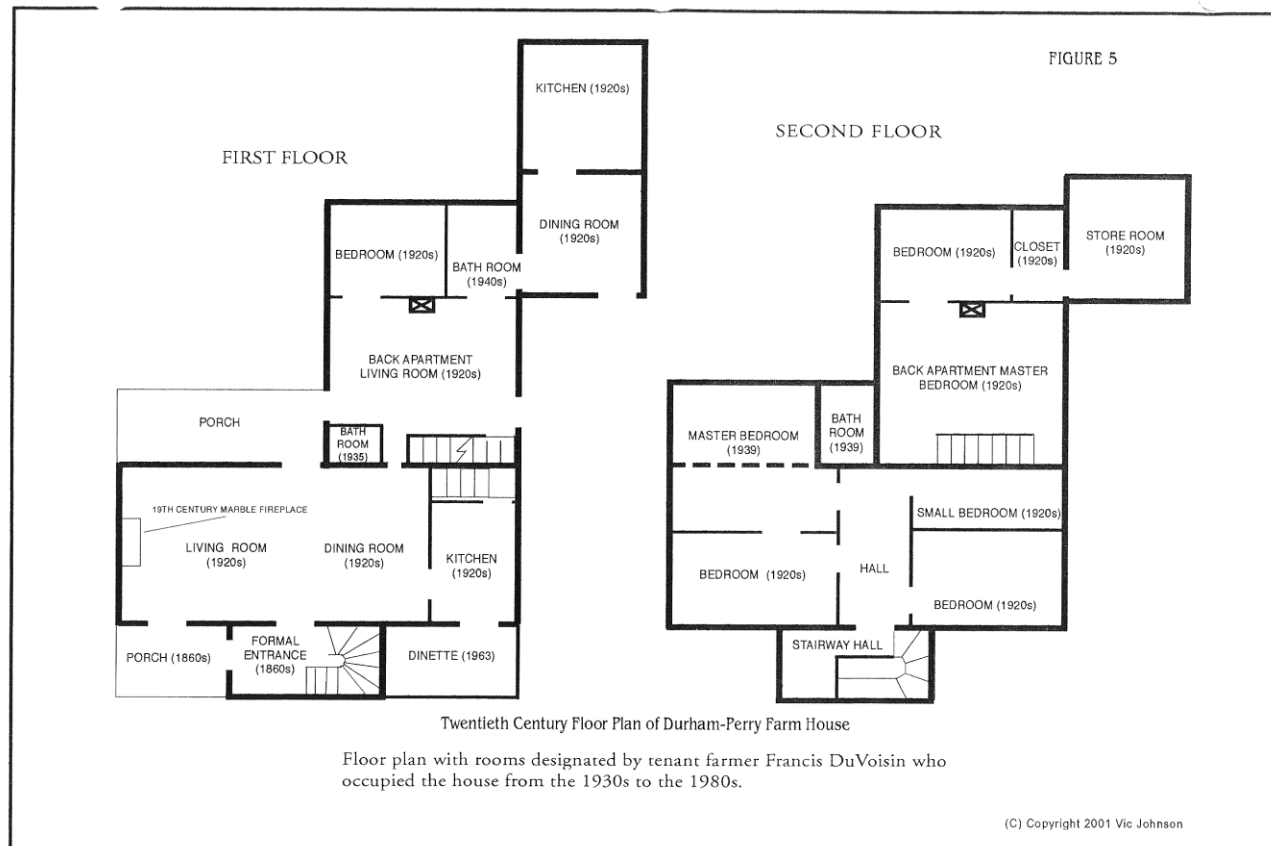
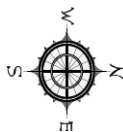
In this westward view of the farm house, gabled pediments can be seen above the windows and former doorway—a characteristic of the Greek Revival architectural style. In the 1860s, the front door was blocked off in order to create a new staircase, and the formal porch entrance was moved to the southeast of the house. The depicted entrance is not used by the public.



In this view of the farm house, looking toward the north, one can see the tool shed at left, pump house in foreground, and one of the remaining “Twin Oaks” (seen the first time by Thomas Durham in 1835) on the right side of the house.



In this view of the farm house, one is looking toward the northeast. The ramp leading to the back porch is the entrance used by the public today.





The marble fireplace is located on the south wall of the twentieth-century living room.



The nineteenth-century rear extension kitchen or “tavern” (foreground) and twentieth-century back apartment living room (behind gate) as viewed from the southeast

The Three-Bay English Barn

In 1840, Durham built a 43' x 32' three-bay English barn with a loft and threshing floor. The roof rafters are slender logs with the bark still on them (see bottom left photo). The construction is timber frame or beam on post. The mechanism seen hanging in the upper left hand corner is a hay hook on a track. It was used to lift bales of hay into the loft. The center bay was originally used as a threshing floor while the bays on each side of the floor were used for feed storage and/or to shelter livestock. English barns, which were modified at various times, remained popular long into the late nineteenth-century and were built on a much larger scale in the Midwest and on the Canadian plains.



The top photograph, as viewed from the south, illustrates the three-bay English barn with its attached milking parlor (on right in photograph) and the stock barn (at left in photograph). The bottom middle photograph illustrates the milking parlor (attached to the three-bay English barn) as seen from the northeast. The photograph of the interior of the milking parlor (bottom right) shows the floor where the cows stood to be milked. Also, on the bottom right are the iron stanchions used to hold the cows in place. The trough on the left of the stanchions was used to collect manure. The milking parlor with its 45 degree sloping shed roof was added to the English barn after 1840.



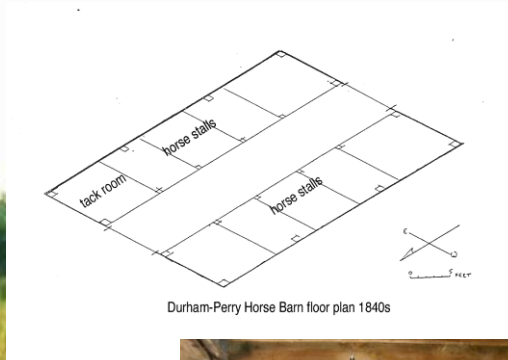
A view of the stock barn (attached to the three bay English barn) as viewed from the southwest—with the 45 degree angled shed roofed milking parlor on the right of the barn



A view of the milking parlor with its 45 degree sloping shed roof, as seen from the east

The Horse Barn

The Durhams built the horse barn in the 1840s after the farm house and the three-bay English barn were constructed. The horse barn was constructed of post on beam and timber frame. Unlike the three-bay English barn, the timbers used in the horse barn were sawn timbers and not the hand hewn timbers typically used in constructing English barns. The horse barn is 25' by 35' with horse stalls and a tack room. In 2009, the quilt block given the name "Shutter" (i.e., a camera shutter) was added to the south side of the horse barn as part of the Kankakee County Barn Quilts tour (below photograph).



A view of the horse barn as seen from the southwest



The “Shutter” barn quilt as viewed from the southeast of the horse barn

The Milk House

The concrete block milk house with composite shingle roof is 14’ X 16’ and was built in the early twentieth-century. Milk was kept cold by placing the milk cans in a vat of cold water drawn from the farm cistern.



A view of the milk house as seen from the southeast

The Pump House

The wood-framed pump house with cedar shake roof is 5.5' X 10' and was built after 1840.



A view of the pump house as seen from the southeast

The Tool Shed

The wood-framed tool shed has a cedar shake roof and is 8'7" X 6'7". It was restored in the past five years but was originally constructed after 1840.



A view of the tool shed as seen from the southeast

The Garage

The garage is wood-framed and has a cedar shake roof. It is 16.5' x 24' with a wood plank floor and was built in 1922. When Lomira Perry stayed on the farm, she parked her Buick in the garage.



A view of the garage as seen from the northeast



A view of the garage as seen from the southwest

The Durham Memorial

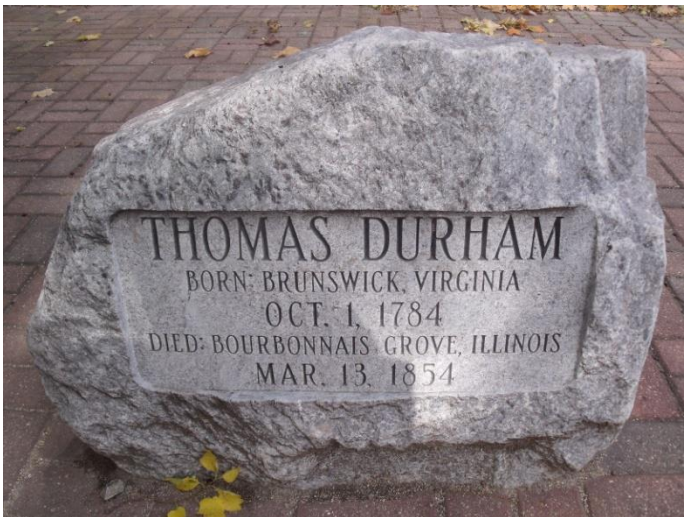
After Thomas Durham died in 1854, he was buried near the orchard just west of the farm house. Today, his grave is marked with a memorial stone and a Millennium Garden. It is believed that several of Thomas and Marguerite Durham's children, who died in infancy, were also buried in this area.



The Durham Memorial and Millennium Garden

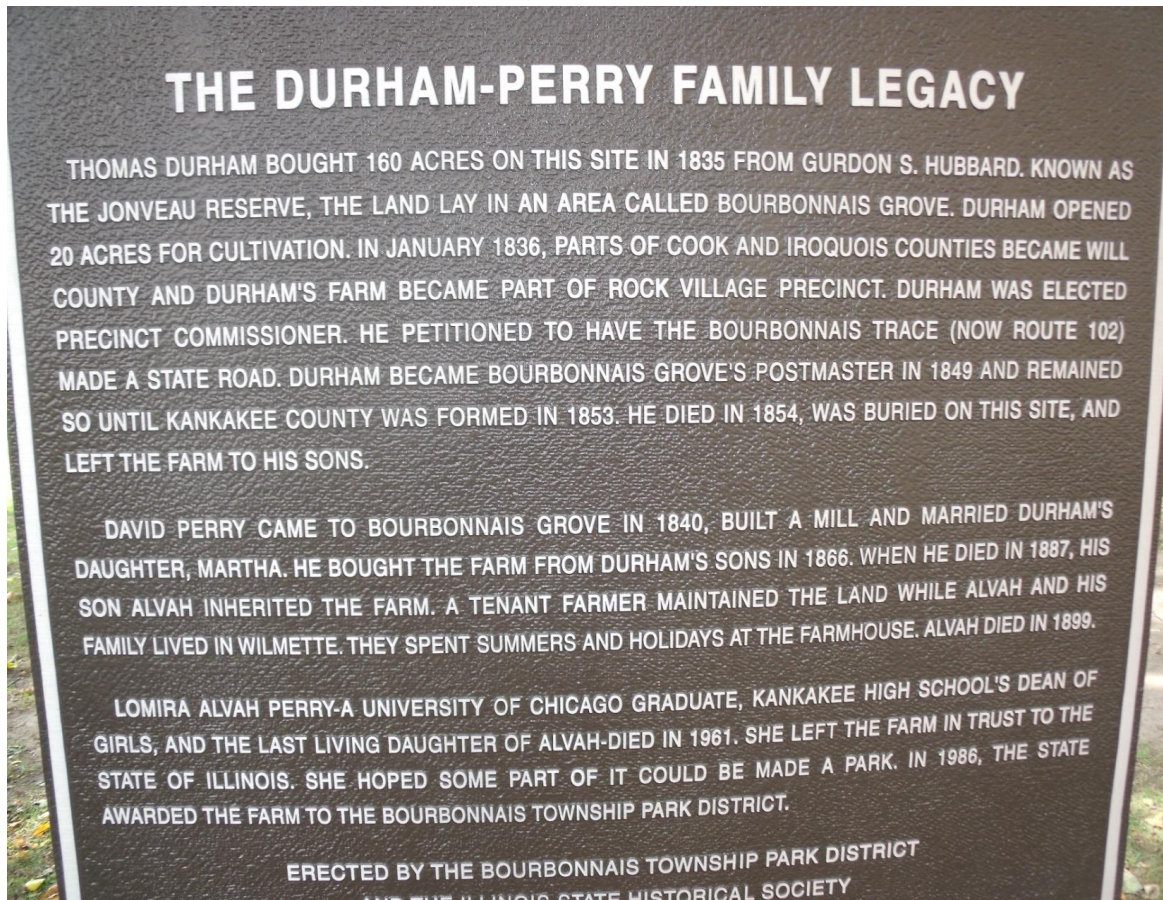


The Durham Memorial and Millennium Garden as viewed from the west with the farm house in background.



The Durham Memorial grave and Millennium Garden markers





A Durham-Perry Family marker is located just west of the Durham Memorial.

Maintenance Building, Chicken House, Pergola, Fence, and Animal Shelters

The maintenance building, chicken house, fence with pergola entrance, and animal shelter buildings or structures were all built after 1988 when the Bourbonnais Township Park District took possession of the farmstead, and therefore these buildings are not considered part of the historic farmstead.

Current Condition of the Property

The Durham-Perry Farmstead is currently a “working” farm with livestock that includes chickens, goats, and miniature horses. Garden plots are available for the community to use. The farmstead has been recently renovated with new landscaping and new coats of white paint on the farm house and fence. The Bourbonnais Township Park District administrative offices are currently located in the upstairs of the farm house, with a public reception desk on the first floor. The Perry Farm Park seems to always be in use by the public through: the rental of facilities, Bourbonnais Township Park District activities like the reenactments “Klash on the Kankakee” and “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”, guided tours of the farm house during the Durham-Perry Farmstead Open House event, and other such events. This Open House includes nineteenth-century farm life demonstrations. Overall, the farmstead is in excellent condition.

6. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Please indicate which of the following criteria apply to the nominated property. (Check all that apply.)

- ☒ **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 front of all that apply.)

Property is:

☐ owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ removed from its original location.

☒ a birthplace or a grave.

☐ a cemetery

☐ a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ a commemorative property.

☐ less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (A, B, C, D)

Criterion A: Durham-Perry Farmstead History

Criterion B: Prominent Prior Owners—Thomas Durham, David Perry, and Lomira Perry

Criterion C: Greek Revival and English Style architecture, 1840

Criterion D: Native American artifacts

Period of Significance

Criterion A: 1835 to 1961

Criterion B: 1835-1988

Criterion C: Greek Revival Architecture, 1840; English Barn Architecture, 1840

Criterion D: Pre-Columbian Native American Artifacts and Potawatomi Artifacts, c. 1750

Significant Dates

1840—Thomas Durham built the farmstead;

1866—David Perry purchased the farmstead;

1961—Lomira Perry bequeathed the farmstead to the state of Illinois;

1961-88—Francis DuVoisin served as tenant farmer

1988—state of Illinois awarded the farmstead, and the whole Perry Farm, to the Bourbonnais Township Park District

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

Thomas Durham, David Perry, and Lomira Perry

Cultural Affiliation

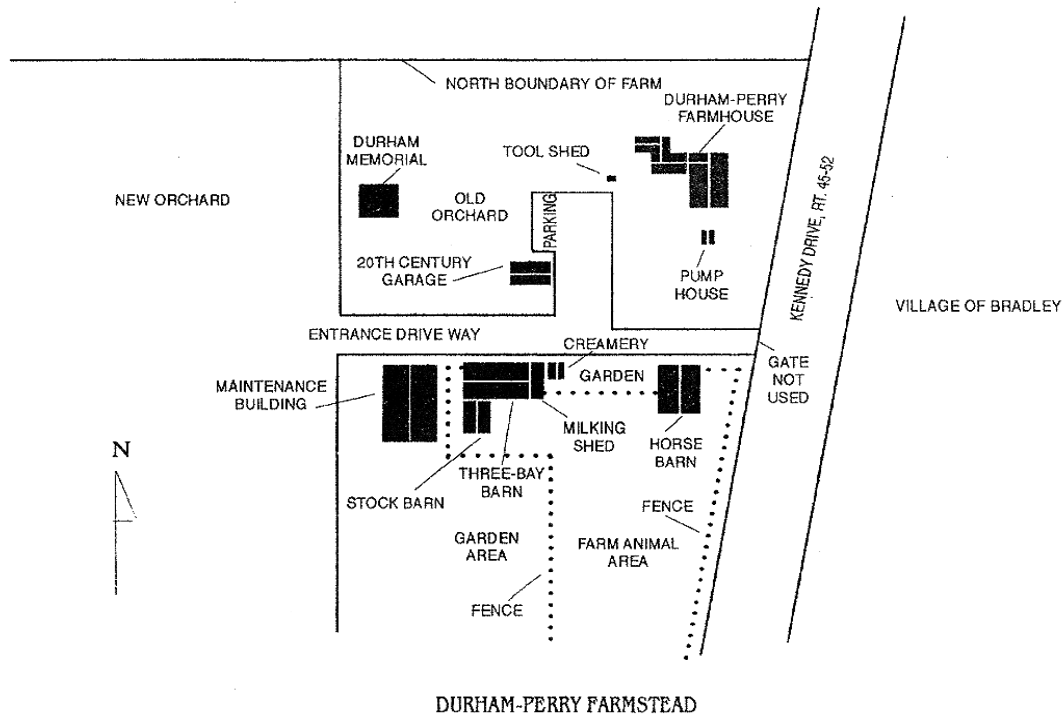
Architect / Builder

Thomas Durham

Narrative Statement of Significance

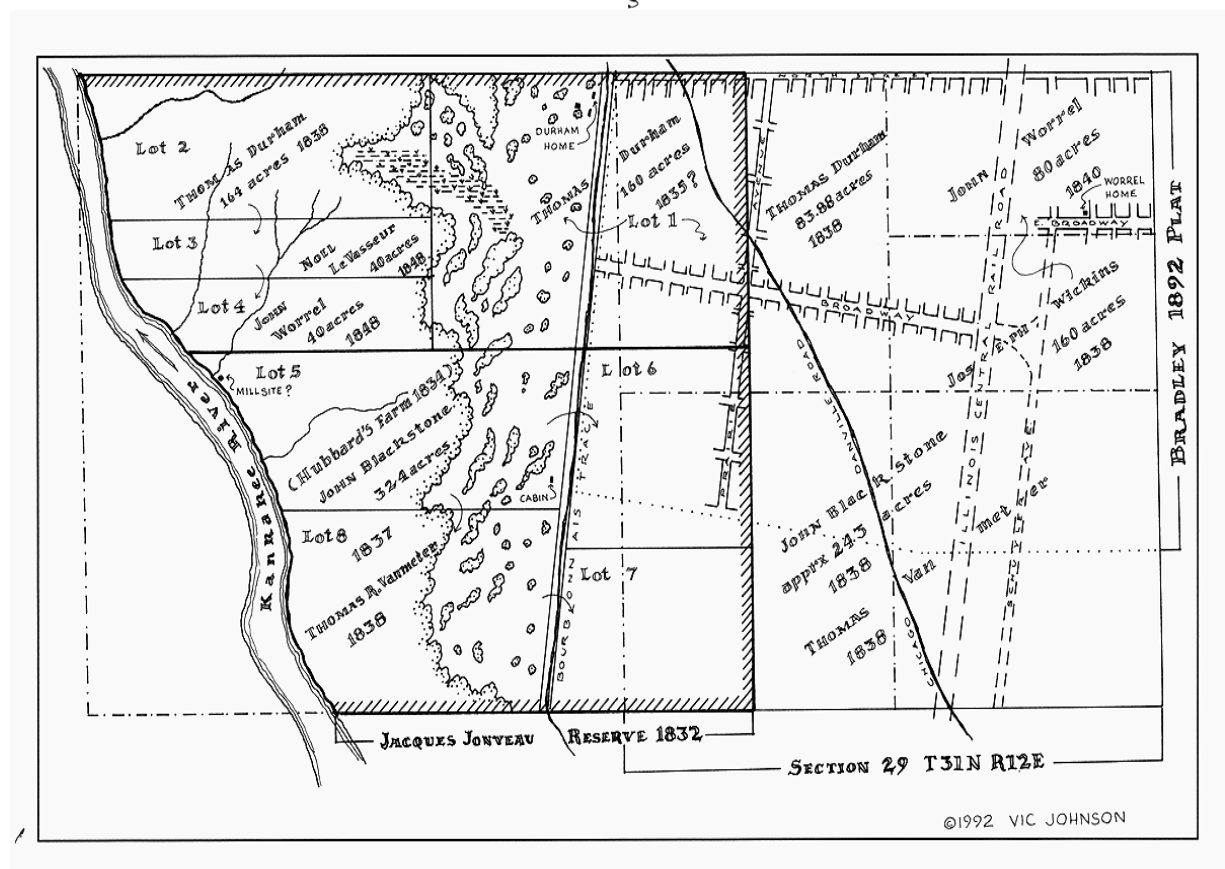
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

The Durham-Perry Farmstead is one of the first pioneer settlements in Kankakee County. Thomas Durham, David Perry, and Lomira Perry were all significant contributors to the political, educational, and economic institutions of the county. The farmstead and the Perry Farm Park are conspicuous reminders to the public of our county's rich history.



This plan drawing shows the farmstead as it appears today. Drawing is not to scale. The farmstead occupies only the Kennedy Drive frontage of the 169 acre farm now called the "Perry Farm Park." It is administered by the Bourbonnais Township Park District.

In the 1830s, a Quaker by the name of Thomas Durham (1784-1854) moved his family from Virginia to Danville, Illinois, and then to Bourbonnais Grove, Illinois. In the early 1830s on one of his trips between Danville and Chicago, Durham camped at a place called "Twin Oaks" which was named after two large burr oak trees that stood next to each other and were located just west of the Bourbonnais Road/Trace and southwest of the junction of the Chicago-Danville Road adjacent to this road/trace. He was amazed at the beauty of the land between the Bourbonnais Road/Trace, Bourbonnais Creek, and river. In 1835 as a result of the land discovery, Durham purchased from Gurdon Hubbard, about 160 acres of the Jonveau reserve known as "Twin Oaks". This acreage extended from the prairie on both sides of the Bourbonnais Road/Trace to the wet prairie or marsh located west of the Bourbonnais Road/Trace. (See map below illustrating this initial 160 acres with about 80 acres on each side of the Bourbonnais Road/Trace). In 1838, Durham purchased another 164 acres which extended his property west toward the hardwood forest with limestone canyon (now known as the "Indian Caves") where Bourbonnais Creek enters the Kankakee River, and 83.88 acres to the east. (Acreage areas can be seen in the upper left and upper right sections respectively on the map below).



Durham was married to Marguerite “Peggy” Durham (she died in 1882). When the couple arrived in Bourbonnais Grove with their children, the family was welcomed by the Potawatomi with a wigwam of boughs which served as an early shelter for the family. Durham opened 20 acres for cultivation in 1835.

In 1836, parts of Cook and Iroquois Counties became Will County and the Durham farm became part of the Rock Village Precinct. Durham was elected Commissioner of Rock Village Precinct in 1836 for a two year term. During Durham’s tenure as Commissioner, a log school house was built just north of the junction of the Chicago-Danville Road and Bourbonnais Road/Trace in 1837. The log school, a 20’ x 20’, 1 ½ story building, served students from 1837 to 1848. During his tenure as Precinct Commissioner, Durham petitioned that the Bourbonnais Road/Trace (now Route 102) become a state road. A few years later in 1849, Durham became postmaster of Bourbonnais Grove. He remained in that office until Kankakee County was formed in 1853.

In 1840, Durham built a home in the two-story “I” or tidewater “stack” house style which was fashionable in those times. In that same year, Durham built the three-bay English barn and the horse barn. The inhabitants of the farm house during the early years included Thomas and Marguerite Durham and their twelve children. Several of the children died in infancy or early childhood and were buried on the farmstead.

Thomas Durham died on March 14, 1854 and was buried on the farm (see the Durham Memorial indicated on the map above). Durham’s sons took over the farm and had various businesses in Kankakee. By 1866, they had fallen into financial difficulty and wanted to sell the farm. Their brother-in-law David Perry (1807-87) surprised them by

purchasing the farm with cash. One story reports that David Perry tossed his wallet full of cash on the table and said “I can lend a hand”. Perry had married Martha Durham (1826-87) on January 1, 1845 and they resided just east of the Durham farmstead. The Perrys moved into the farm house and took care of Marguerite “Peggy” Durham until her death in 1882. David and Martha Perry had four children.

David Perry, a carpenter and stone mason from Vermont, had come to Momence in 1838 and then Bourbonnais Grove in 1840. He built a lumber mill and dam on the Kankakee River just upstream from the mouth of Bourbonnais Creek—making lumber available locally. Builders would no longer have to travel to Chicago to purchase lumber. David Perry not only farmed, but also served as Kankakee County Treasurer from 1853-59. At eighty years of age, he died on May 26 1887, leaving the farm to his wife. When she died six months later, the farm passed to their only surviving child, Alvah (1850-99).

On June 1, 1891, Alvah sold 76 acres of farmland east of the Bourbonnais Road/Trace (Kennedy Drive) to John Hardebeck for the plat of North Kankakee (renamed Bradley). The last heir to the farm was Alvah Perry’s daughter Lomira (1887-1961). In an article entitled “The Perrys of Bourbonnais Grove” in the Winter 2009 issue of *Le Journal du Village* (newsletter of the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society) local historian Vic Johnson wrote, “She graduated from high school in Chicago, and went on to earn a Master of Arts degree and a Ph.D. in History from the University of Chicago. Lomira became a teacher and Dean of Girls at Kankakee High School. She was a member of the Kankakee Woman’s Club, the Coverlet Guild of Kankakee, and the DAR. Upon retirement Lomira returned to live in Wilmette. There she attended the Hyde Park Baptist Church of Chicago and belonged to the Conference of Club Presidents of Wilmette. At the time of her death on December 29, 1961, Lomira was the sole surviving member of her family. . . Lomira’s will left in trust to the Illinois Department of Conservation the farm that had been the home of the Durhams and Perrys for some 125 years” (5). After Lomira’s death, tenant farmer Francis DuVoisin occupied the house until the 1980s. Lomira’s will left the farm in trust to the Illinois Department of Conservation. The state of Illinois awarded the Perry Farm to the Bourbonnais Township Park District in 1988. On March 31, 2006, the state of Illinois and the National Park Service of the U.S. Dept. of Interior announced the listing of the Durham-Perry Farmstead in the National Register of Historic Places.

7. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Johnson, Vic. *A Farm with a Past and a Future*. Durham-Perry Farmstead Brochure. Bourbonnais Township Park District. 2008.

Johnson, Vic and the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society. *Images of America: Bourbonnais*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing. 2006.

Johnson, Vic. “The Perrys of Bourbonnais Grove”. “The Perrys of Bourbonnais Grove”. *Le Journal du Village*. Winter 2009. 5.

Johnson, Vic. Unpublished materials. 1996.

Kanaga, William F. and Letourneau, George R. (eds.). *History of Kankakee County* as part of Bateman, Newton and Selby, Paul (eds.) *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois*. Vol. II. Chicago: Middle West Publishing Company. 1906.

Richard, Adrien M. *The Village: A Story of Bourbonnais*. U.S.A.: Published by Centennial Committee of Village of Bourbonnais. 1975.



Previous documentation on file (NPS)

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data

☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☒ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository

8. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Tax Assessor's Parcel Identification Number (P.I.N.) 17 - 09 - 30 - 100 - 010

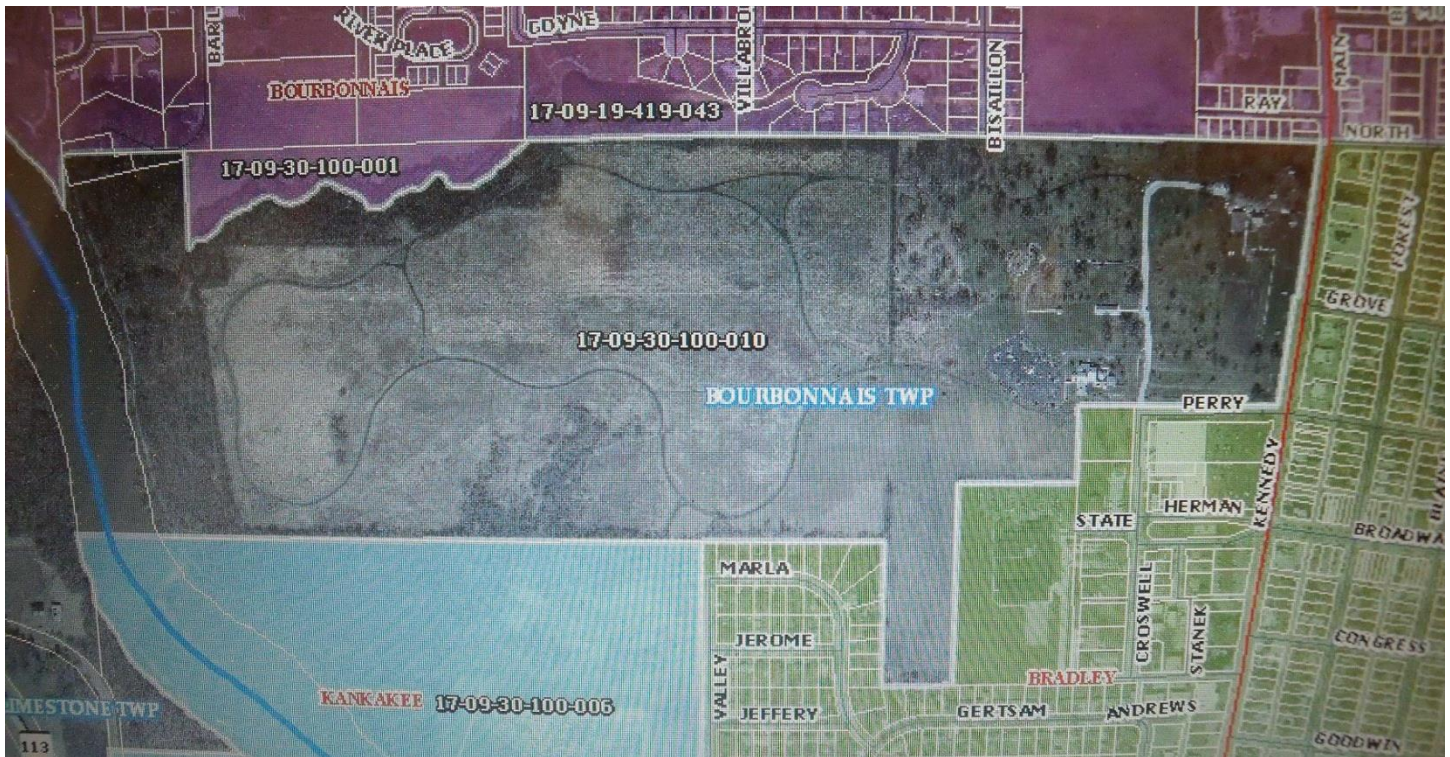
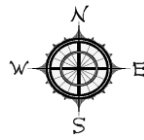
Acres of Property 25 acres of historic farmstead
(Lot Dimensions & # of acres)

Verbal Boundary Description

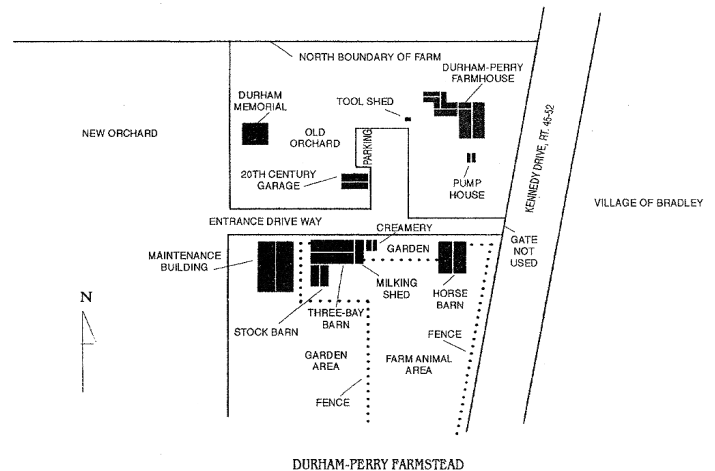
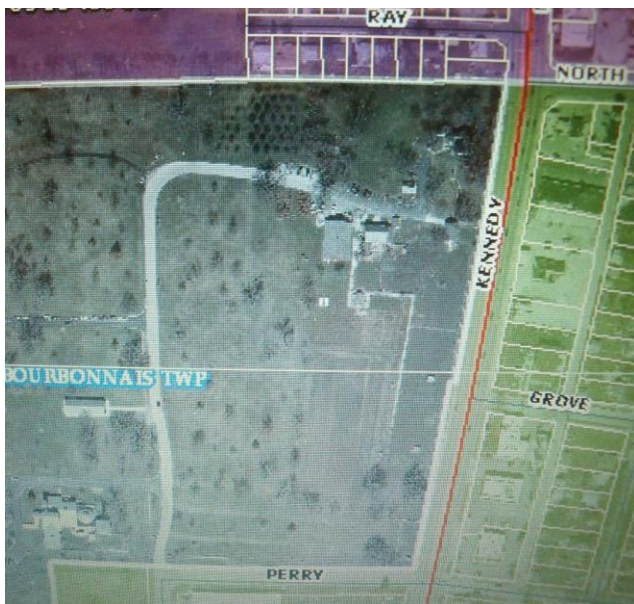
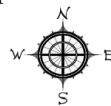
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Please attach a map indicating the property location and the boundaries of the property and/or landmark location to be nominated. Attach photographs which show sufficient detail, important features, and significant structures of the property to be nominated. Historic photographs of the property to be nominated are encouraged. If possible, please also provide photographs in digital format.

The Durham-Perry Farmstead is part of the Perry Farm Park, is owned by the Bourbonnais Township Park District and is on the southwestern corner of the township. The property lines are indicated in the satellite photograph below.



The Perry Farm Park extends from the former Bourbonnais Road/Trace (now Kennedy Drive) on the east to the Kankakee River on the west. The park consists of 169 acres.



This plan drawing shows the farmstead as it appears today. Drawing is not to scale. The farmstead occupies only the Kennedy Drive frontage of the 169 acre farm now called the "Perry Farm Park." It is administered by the Bourbonnais Township Park District.

The 25 acre Durham-Perry Farmstead is on the northeast corner of the Perry Farm Park. The boundaries of the farmstead are North Street on the north, Kennedy Drive on the east, Perry Street on the south, and the Bourbonnais Township Park District driveway on the west. If one would continue the Bourbonnais Township Park District driveway to the north where it curves toward the east, it would form the upper western boundary of the farmstead and is just west of the grape arbor (north of the curve).

9. FORM PREPARED BY

Include the name, address, telephone number, fax number, e-mail address, and signature of the person(s) submitting this nomination application.

name/title: Dr. James Paul and Daron Kinzinger

organization: Perry Farm Living History Advisory

date: November 5, 2012

street & number: 764 Woodstock Lane, Bourbonnais, IL 60914 (Paul)
1632 Hatteras Drive, Bourbonnais IL 60914 (Kinzinger)

Telephone: 815 933-9202 (Paul) and 815 603-9738 (Kinzinger)

city or town: Bourbonnais state: IL zip code: 60914

E-mail: jpaul764@comcast.net

Attach additional signature sheets if more than one person/family is making application.

10. PROPERTY OWNERSHIP INFORMATION

Include the name, address, and telephone number of all legal owners of record of the nominated property. If the property has more than two (2) owners, use Attachment 3.

PLEASE NOTE: When nominating a landscape which incorporates more than one property or when nominating a district, Attachment 1-3 **must** be completed and submitted with this application.

name/title: Bourbonnais Township Park District

street & number: 459 North Kennedy Drive

city or town: Bourbonnais state: IL zip code: 60914 Telephone: 815 933-9905



Has the applicant notified the property owner(s) that this property is being recommended for landmark designation to the Kankakee County Historic Preservation Commission? X Yes _____ No

If yes, was notification made by the applicant X in person? _____ by telephone?
 X in writing?

Has the property owner(s) indicated support or lack of support for nomination of this property?
 X Support—as per board decision on 3/11/11 Lack of support?

11. PROPERTY STATUS INFORMATION

At the time of the application, is the nominated property:

_____ threatened by demolition or neglect? *(Please provide detailed explanation.)*

_____ considered for new development? *(Please provide detailed explanation.)*

 X likely to remain in its present condition?