United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Duffy, Michael, Farm

other name/site number: NPS Tract #115-035 and 115-036, List of Classified Structures #HS-555 - HS-561

2. Location

street & number: 4965 Quick Road

city/town: Peninsula

county: Summit

state: OH code: 153

county: Summit

zip code: 44264

city/town: Peninsula

county: Summit

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: public-Federal

Category of Property: district

Number of Resources within Property:

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<td><em><strong>1</strong></em> Total</td>
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</table>

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: ___0___

Name of related multiple property listing: Agricultural Resources of the Cuyahoga Valley
4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official
Ohio Historic Preservation Office

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet.

___ determined eligible for the National Register
See continuation sheet.

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain): ____________________________

Signature of Keeper
Date of Action
6. Function or Use

Historic: Domestic__________ Sub: Single Dwelling__________
Agricultural/ Subsistence Processing________________________
Storage____________________

Current: Vacant/Not In Use______ Sub: ________________________
__________________________
__________________________

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Late Victorian____
____________________

Other Description: Folk Victorian
Gabled-Ell

Materials: foundation Stone_ roof Asbestos__
walls Wood other Brick

Describe present and historic physical appearance. _X_ See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: ____________.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A and C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : NA____

Areas of Significance: Agriculture________________
Architecture________________________
________________________

Period(s) of Significance: 1872 - 1930____

Significant Dates : 1872 1882 __

Significant Person(s): NA___________________
Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. _X_ See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References
_X_ See continuation sheet.

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 # __________

Primary Location of Additional Data:

_ State historic preservation office
_ Other state agency
X Federal agency
_ Local government
_ University
_ Other -- Specify Repository: Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 23_____

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A __ _____ _____  B __ _____ _____
C __ _____ _____  D __ _____ _____

_X_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: _X_ See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: __ See continuation sheet.
The boundaries for the property were determined based on historic ownership and integrity of the remaining resources.
Name/Title: Melinda Campbell, 8/87/ Paulette Oswick, 4/90/ Jeff Winstel, 5/92
organization: NPS/ Cuyahoga Valley NRA Date: May 5, 1992
Street & Number: 15610 Vaughn Road Telephone: 216/526-5256
City or Town: Brecksville State: Oh, ZIP: 44114
The Michael Duffy farm is located on Quick Road, in Boston Township, Ohio. The farm consists of the house (1872) and barn (1882) built by Michael and Mary Duffy, and a newer house built by later owners Julius and Katherine Boehmer in 1936. The original farmhouse was used as a rental property subsequent to this. The 1872 house, along with the 1882 barn, a fruit stand, a poultry house, two privies, and the associated field comprise the six contributing buildings and one contributing site on the Duffy farm. The 1936 house is not considered contributing.

The 1872 house is a T-plan structure with a single story porch with hip roof. The facade of the house is not oriented to the road, which is contemporary, or to a core grouping of outbuildings. The massing of the house is characteristic of the type: a half I-house with a perpendicular gabled wing. A one story rectangular massed addition with a central chimney is located on the northeast side of the house. The house sets on a sandstone block foundation, most of which has deteriorated.

The medium-pitch gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Walls are covered with wood siding that is either clapboard or drop-siding. Trim elements are limited to small cornerboards and a raked frieze board under the gable eaves. Evenly spaced windows are either 6/6, 4/2, or 2/2 sash. The core block is served by two entry doors located on the southeast facade. One is centered on the gabled section, while the half-I section’s door is offset to the right, located in the crotch of the porch’s ell. The porch contains turned spindle posts with jigsaw-cut scrolled brackets separating a delicate spindlework frieze.

The side appendage is one story in height and has an asphalt shingle covered gable roof. A brick chimney stack is located astride the roof apex. The addition is covered with wood drop siding and is three bays wide and one bay deep. The southeast or facade elevation contains three evenly spaced openings—an entry door followed by two windows. The gable end contains another entry and window. Two additional windows are located on the rear elevation. All the openings have plain trim surrounds.

The barn is a three-bay wide gable-roofed bank barn with a large shed appendage on the northwest gable end. The roof-wall junction of the core structure is marked by frieze board. The shed addition has a wide eave overhang. The barn rests on a sandstone base, and both the core and appendage are covered with vertical plank siding. Two entry doors have been cut into the southwest elevation.
Duffy, Michael, Farm
Peninsula, Ohio
Summit County

A narrow vertical plank, double door with a heavy lintel beam is located on the shed roof addition. On the same elevation, a smaller door opening with hollow tile block surrounds is located on the lower level of core structure. Additional openings include a small 6/6 window adjacent to the shed door, a small hay door on the second floor of the barn’s central bay, and a window opening in the southeast gable end. The earthen bank is located on the northeast side. The large sliding doors on the northeast elevation contain their original hardware.

The contributing outbuildings located on the farmstead include a fruit stand, a toolshed, and two privies. The fruit stand is a one story, gable roof structure. The roof is covered with composition sheeting and the walls are clad with wood drop siding. Openings include two doors, each with a glazed upper panel, and several small rectangular 6/6 fixed windows. A small wooden apple is located above the door. The toolshed is located approximately ten feet from the fruit stand and is similar in scale and massing to the fruit stand. Differences include narrower width tongue-and-groove horizontal siding and a fifteen light door. The toolshed also has a sawn-plank, lean-to addition with a plank door.

The two privies located on the farmstead have different roof profiles and different types of siding. The privy located closest to the house has a gable roof covered with rolled tarpaper, horizontal tongue-and-groove siding, a vertical plank door, and corner boards. The other privy has a shed roof, also covered with rolled tarpaper, horizontal drop siding, and vertical tongue-and-groove siding, and corner boards.

The adjacent fields are considered a contributing site. North and heading west from the 1872 house, the landscape changes from overgrown old fields, and becomes increasingly wooded. In this area there are a number of tall trees, but little undergrowth. The remains of an access road, which once connected fields near the house with fields in the north end of the property are apparent. The spruce and cherry trees which lined the road are extant, as are the remnants of a post and barbed wire fence. South and west of the farmstead is a cultivated field which is associated historically with the property.
Duffy, Michael, Farm
Peninsula, Ohio
Summit County

Directly west of the house in a north/south line is a row of berry bushes, and parallel to this is a row of trees, including apple, cherry, and elm. These and other fruit trees and bushes throughout the property attest to the former truck farming operation.

The 1936 noncontributing house of Cape Cod style is faced with random ashlar stone veneer and wood siding. The asphalt shingle roof contains 2 gabled dormers. Parallel wings located on each gable-end house a sun porch and a garage.

Located at the northern edge of this field is the site of a residence which was recently removed. Constructed in 1973, the stone and cedar two-story residence featured wood shake roofing and a concrete block foundation. This structure has been removed and the site has been restored to its natural condition.

Although the photographs of the nominated property were taken more than 2 years ago, recent site inspection conducted April of 1992 confirms that conditions depicted in photographs represent the current condition of the property.
Duffy, Michael, Farm
Peninsula, Ohio
Summit County

The Michael Duffy farm is being nominated under Criterion A for association with the agricultural development of Cuyahoga Valley, and Criterion C for representing the distinct characteristics of building types that are important examples of construction practices associated with the historic theme of agriculture. The nominated property is consistent with the description and significance statements of Associated Property Type: "Farmstead" found in the Agricultural Resources of Cuyahoga Valley MPD. The nominated farm also meets the registration requirements for this associated property type.

Historic Development

In 1861, Michael Duffy purchased fifty acres of unimproved land in Boston Township Lot 10. He purchased the land from farmers in the area, Conner and Mary Alcock. According to the census records, he was 19 years old at that time and his wife was 24. In 1867 the Duffys purchased another 56.74 acres in Lot 11, which adjoined their property to the north. Five years later, in 1872, they completed the construction of their home.

The 1880 agricultural census records are no longer available for Summit County. Census records from 1870, however, provide some indication as to what the Duffy farm probably produced. The Alcocks, who sold the Duffys the land, are listed in the 1870 agricultural census records for Summit County. They grew wheat, Indian corn, oats and Irish potatoes, but dairying seems to have been the main concern. An 1874 map indicates a cheese factory on Lot 9, an accessible location for both the Alcocks and Duffys.

In 1882 the Duffy's built the 3-bay bank barn located on the nominated property. In the 1900 census records, Mary Duffy is listed as a widow and her son James is listed as a farm laborer. It is probable that James and his mother maintained the farm after Michael Duffy's death.

In 1910, Mary traded the farm for three residential lots in Cuyahoga Falls, which were owned by John Hatchel. Hatchel sold the acreage in Lot 11 the following year to William Hainsworth.

Between 1915 and 1923, the fifty-acre farm had six owners. In 1923, however, Julius and Katherine Boehmer purchased the farm and operated it nearly forty years. In 1936, the couple built a new house and maintained the 1872 house as
Farm production ceased in 1960, when Julius Boehmer died. His daughter Susan inherited the farm and sold 41.47 acres to Claudia Lynn Armington ten years later. In 1975, Susan Boehmer died, bequeathing the remaining 8.53 acres, which included the house and the outbuildings, to Jane B. Richards of Lakewood, Ohio. The National Park Service acquired the property in 1975.

**Criterion A: Agriculture**

The Duffy Farm is associated with the following period of agricultural development described in the Agricultural Resources MPD: Railroads, Industrialization and Scientific Farming, 1851-1913. This period was characterized by a cheaper, more reliable method of transportation and an increase in nearby urban markets. With the development of Akron and Cleveland as industrial centers, the populations of these two cities grew rapidly. The combined population of Summit and Cuyahoga counties increased more than 400 percent between 1870 and 1910. Available statistics for 1900 and 1910, the first to distinguish between the urban and rural populations, show that the rural areas grew only slightly, while the cities increased by nearly one-third during the ten-year period. With the coming of the Valley Railroad in 1880, the farmers in the valley had relatively quick access to these growing urban markets.

Market garden produce, for instance, increased in value from $63,000 in 1860 to almost $2,000,000 in 1910. The value of orchard products also increased, though at a less dramatic rate from $90,000 to $700,000. The amount of milk sold by valley farmers nearly tripled between 1870 and 1910.

The outbuildings on the Duffy farm reflect this trend in local agricultural production. The surviving cherry and apple trees, along with the other fruit trees and bushes on the property indicate an emphasis on orchard produce. The bank barn, which is associated with some type of livestock housing, indicates the probability of dairy cows on the farm.

The 1874 Combination Atlas Map of Summit County, shows a cheese factory on Lot 9, only a short distance from the Duffy Farm. This would have served as a convenient outlet for the production of a dairy farm.
Although a Midwest dairy farm in the 1880s would more likely have a larger, more contemporary gambrel roof dairy barn, it must be remembered that the Duffys had only been farming for ten years and their farm was of relatively modest size. Also, rural areas tended to perpetuate vernacular building traditions after new construction techniques had been developed.

It is likely that Julius and Katherine Boehmer practiced truck farming during the 1920s when they owned the farm. The fruit stand located on the farm still has price list signs for several varieties of apples. Truck farming was one of the ways farmers survived during the Agricultural Decline and Economic Diversification period of farming in the valley.

Criterion C: Architecture

The buildings on the Duffy farm typify the construction practices associated with late 19th century agriculture in the context area. The late 19th century origins of the Duffy farm is reflected in the mass produced building materials, such as the drop siding found on many of the outbuildings, and popular building types, such as the Gabled Ell farmhouse.

The Gabled Ell house type was popular in Ohio between 1865 and 1885. These balloon frame structures are characterized by a half-I house form perpendicular to a wing with gable ends. Unlike the Upright and Wing, both sections are of equal height, creating a cross gable roof-line. Typically, the long section of the wing faces the road, except for urban examples, which were oriented so that the wing faced the road. This was done to accommodate urban lots. It is unusual that the Duffy farmhouse was oriented to reflect an urban treatment of this house type.

The decorative spindlework detailing of the porch identifies the house with what Virginia and Lee McAlester call the Folk Victorian style. Folk Victorian had a national distribution, due to the extensive railroad network of the late 19th century. Railroads enabled heavy woodworking machinery to be shipped throughout the country, and fancy pre-cut details could be shipped to almost any local lumber yard. Unlike other homes from the Victorian era that incorporate the same decorative motifs, Folk Victorian is an applied style—it doesn’t exhibit the complex massing and varied surface detailing found in high style architecture of the time period.
Duffy, Michael, Farm
Peninsula, Ohio
Summit County

The interior of the farmhouse has been altered on the first floor, but retains original historic fabric on the second floor, including molded banister and spindle balustrade, fluted door surrounds with bulls-eye corner blocks, and molded baseboards. This trim work, like the porch detailing, is a result of the advances in production technologies and transportation networks during the late 19th century.

The barn at the Duffy farm has the characteristics of a raised basement barn. Although it does not rest on a masonry or tile block foundation, the barn does have a lower level and is accessed by an earthen ramp. Other distinguishing features include the central door off the ramp, the gable roof, and the three bay construction.

The fruit stand and toolshed are typical of late 19th, early 20th century farm outbuildings in that they are constructed using the mass produced drop or novelty siding. Earlier outbuildings were typically constructed of vertical plank or vertical board and batten construction.

Henry Kaufmann in *The American Farmhouse* noted that the location of a privy was a compromise between living with the odor in the summer and not having too far to go in the colder months. Perhaps the reason there are two privies on the Duffy farm is to have the appropriate privy for the appropriate season. One is closer to the house, but the other one is located next to a farm outbuilding. If, however, the outhouse located further on from the house was meant to be the summer outhouse, it would be more isolated.

Both privies are located in groves of trees, enabling them to be somewhat inconspicuous structures. Given the Victorian discomfort with the function of these buildings, hiding them in a clump of trees was considered the polite thing to do. Privies were almost always made of wood, which made them easier to move. Without plumbing, it was necessary to find a new pit location every once in a while.
Duffy, Michael, Farm
Peninsula, Ohio
Summit County

Integrity

The collection of buildings forming the farmstead reads as a functionally related unit. The buildings are in their original location and only the 1936 house impacts the immediate setting. Overall, the setting maintains its rural identity -- the nominated property contains cultivated fields and fruit trees. The groupings of fruit trees and bushes were not counted as a separate contributing site because of the amount of other trees that are now interspersed, preventing the area from reading as an orchard. They do, however, add to the historic setting.

Important features of the buildings’ design, materials, and craftsmanship are extant. Additions made to the structures seem to have been done within the period of significance. The side addition to the house uses the same wood siding that can be found on the outbuildings, and contains window and doors with surrounds and glazing patterns that can be found on the core structure. The shed addition to the barn is done with the same vertical plank siding that covers the core structure. Despite these additions, the vernacular building types represented by the house and barn, are readily identifiable. The application of technology to craft, found in the porch detailing and interior trim of the house, and the smooth machined finish of the outbuildings’ drop siding, along with the rough finish of the barn’s vertical planking, indicate that the workmanship that went into these buildings is still intact.
Duffy, Michael, Farm
Peninsula, Ohio
Summit County

Bibliographical References:

Summit County Recorder Deeds, Vol. 43, 62, 94, and 402.


Matthews and Taintor, Map of Boston Township, Summit County, Ohio, 1856.


U.S. Bureau of Census, Products of Agriculture, Summit County, 1870.

Duffy, Michael, Farm  
Peninsula, Ohio  
Summit County

Geographical Data

UTM References:

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Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point determined by the intersection of the southern most fence line with the eastern edge of Quick Road, proceed northwesterly along Quick Road for a distance of 1160 feet; thence northeasterly along the tree line to the next tree line, a total of 420 feet. Continue southeasterly along tree line for a distance of 385 feet; thence northeasterly 180 feet to a point north of the northernmost "Y" intersection formed by the gravel drives. From this point, proceed southeasterly along the tree line a distance of 460 feet; thence due south for another 460 feet along the tree line east of a high point in the field. Proceed due west from this point 820 feet along the southern side of the fence line to the point of beginning.
Michael Duffy Farm
Peninsula, Ohio
Summit County
C.V.N.R.A.

Jeff Winstel
3/92
National Register of Historic Places File Checklist

The following materials are contained in this file of the National Register form for:

Name: Duffy, Michael, Farm
County: Summit

MPD Cover Form: Agricultural Resources of the Cuyahoga Valley MPS
County Filed In: Summit

X Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form

_____ Ohio Historic Inventory form

_____ Photograph(s)

_____ Photograph(s) (copies)

_____ USGS map(s)

X USGS map(s) (copies)

_____ Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)

_____ Correspondence

_____ Other ____________________________

______________________________

______________________________

CES: 10/01