

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 28 1984

date entered APR 24 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic

and/or common Duanesburg (Town) Multiple Resource Area (Partial: Historical &amp; Architectural)

## 2. Location

street &amp; number the town limits of the Town of Duanesburg not for publication

city, town Duanesburg vicinity of

state New York code 036 county Schenectady code 093

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> multiple	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
resource area	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

see inventory forms

name various

street &amp; number

city, town vicinity of state

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Schenectady County Clerk's Office

street &amp; number State Street

city, town Schenectady state New York

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

see continuation sheet

title Statewide Inventory of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible? yes xx no

date 1979 &amp; 1983 federal x state county local

depository for survey records Division for Historic Preservation

city, town Albany state New York

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only  
JUN 28 1981  
received  
date entered

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Duanesburg (Town) Multiple Resource Area (Partial: Historical &  
Architectural) Duanesburg Schenectady Co., NY

Continuation sheet

Item number

6

Page 2

The following properties in the multiple resource area have been documented by the Historic American Building Survey. Records are on file in the U.S. Library of Congress:

Christ Church	(HABS # NY-331)
Duane Mansion	(HABS # NY-330)
North Mansion	(HABS # NY-346)

The following property in the multiple resource area is already included in the National Register of Historic Places:

Christman Bird & Wildlife Sanctuary (NR listed 8/25/76)

## 7. Description

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved date NA

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Duanesburg Multiple Resource Area includes all the area in the town of Duanesburg, the westernmost town in Schenectady County, New York. The 73.5 square mile, predominantly rural agrarian town is bounded on the north by Montgomery County, on the west and southwest by Schoharie County and on the south by Albany County. The western boundary of Duanesburg is determined by the course of the Schoharie Creek. The eastern boundary abuts the Schenectady County town of Princetown. Scattered farmsteads, and small, widely dispersed crossroads hamlets and villages characterize the town. The terrain of the area is characterized by hills underlain by slate and bluestone. The Bozenkill and the Normanskill are, and have been since the settlement of the town in 1765, the major streams providing sources of power and recreation. Mariaville Lake, Featherstonhaugh Lake, Duanesburg Reservoir and Duane Lake are the major bodies of water. Major thoroughfares include U.S. Route 20, New York State Routes 159 and 7, all running on an east-west axis, and New York State Route 30, running north-south. All four follow important colonial routes which determined much of Duanesburg's early development.

The town's present layout remains much the same as it was throughout the nineteenth century: large farmsteads dominate the landscape, with a few hamlets and villages located at the crossroads of major thoroughfares. Many of the town's numerous farmsteads retain a substantial amount of their original acreage. Where modern subdivision of historic farms has occurred, the general result has been the development of small parcels fronting thoroughfares, thereby preserving much of the integrity of the historic farms. The present locations of more densely settled communities generally coincide with the historic locations of crossroads hamlets and villages. Scattered throughout the town, they are Mariaville, located in the northeast quadrant, Bramans Corners and Eatons Corners in the northwest quadrant, Quaker Street and Delanson in the south-central section and Duanesburg Churches and Duanesburg in the southeast quadrant. Historically these hamlets were generally self-sufficient, each with its own collection of residences, commercial services and houses of worship with occasional inns, taverns and hotels. Today, although not as isolated as before, most of these communities still contain their own religious and commercial services.

Although Duanesburg remains a predominantly rural agrarian area, the town has become a bedroom community for the cities of Schenectady and Albany as reflected by the town's twentieth-century development. The recent completion of Interstate 88 assures Duanesburg's continued development throughout the last decades of the twentieth century.

The historic resources of the town of Duanesburg were identified by means of a comprehensive architectural/historical survey conducted in 1979 by the Schenectady County Planning Department, Schenectady, New York. Under the guidance of the State Historic Preservation Office,

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Duanesburg Multiple Resource Area

For NPS use only	28	1984
received		
date entered		

Continuation sheet Duanesburg, Schenectady Co, NY Item number 7

Page 2

all structures were surveyed; 643 structures were identified as historic ( fifty or more years old). Those that appeared to have physical integrity and a measure of historical significance were further researched and inventoried on New York State building/structure inventory forms. Each structure was then evaluated by the State Historic Preservation Office staff according to the National Register criteria.

The properties identified for inclusion in the multiple resource area nomination are the most intact properties representing the history of the town between ca.1780 and the 1930s whose architectural and historical significance can be established from available research. Other properties in the town may be nominated in the future if additional information becomes available to substantiate their significance. Those properties within the town whose primary significance is archeological have not been evaluated. One property in the town, the Christman Bird and Wildlife Sanctuary, has already been listed on the National Register (August, 1970).

The components of the nomination comprise four historic districts, one thematic group and twenty-six individual properties. The various components include a total of 107 properties, four of which are non-contributing. There are 103 contributing primary structures and 167 contributing outbuildings, yielding a total of 270 contributing elements in the nomination.

The boundaries of the four historic districts have been drawn to include only the intact historic properties within each village or hamlet; modern intrusions and severely altered historic structures surrounding the districts have been excluded. Boundaries of the individually nominated properties correspond to present property lines except where variations are explicitly noted on the inventory forms. In general, the individual properties retain much of their original acreage and many of their period outbuildings. Thus, for many of the individual components, boundaries were established to preserve historic farm settings of one hundred acres or more.

The majority of Duanesburg's historic resources are relatively modest frame structures. With the exception of one residence (the Macomber Stone House, 1836, Individual Component), and several brick or stone smokehouses, masonry construction is virtually non-existent. Residential architecture predominates, with occasional examples of religious and commercial architecture (primarily in historic districts). No intact historic civic or industrial properties have been identified, although subsequent research may reveal properties containing the archeological remains of some of Duanesburg's early mills.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Duanesburg Multiple Resource Area

Continuation sheet Duanesburg, Schenectady Co, NY Item number 7

Page 3

For NPS use only 2 2 1981  
received  
date entered

The structures included in the nomination are, with few exceptions, vernacular interpretations of a broad range of architectural styles, including Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne/Eastlake and Colonial Revival. Forms are generally simple and regular and detailing and embellishment are restrained and modest, even during the second half of the nineteenth century when the stylistic preferences of the Victorian era were, throughout the region, particularly picturesque, sophisticated and ostentatious. While numerous examples of modest, vernacular interpretations of nineteenth-century styles are found both in isolated, rural areas and in hamlets and villages, the influence of the mid- to late-nineteenth century picturesque movement is manifested, with few exceptions, only in structures in Duanesburg's hamlets and villages.

The survey revealed four historic districts in the multiple resource area that meet the criteria for National Register eligibility. Duanesburg has had, throughout its history, at least eight widely dispersed concentrations of settlements, including small, crossroads hamlets, larger hamlets and incorporated villages. One of the crossroads hamlets (Greens Corners, once a family controlled settlement) and one of the larger hamlets (Esperence Station, a late nineteenth century railroad community) no longer survive as identifiable communities. Of the six surviving communities, two no longer contain concentrations of historic properties. They are Bramans Corners, once a family controlled crossroads hamlet, and the large hamlet of Duanesburg, the town's present-day, primary commercial center. Of the four communities that were identified as possessing concentrations of intact historic properties, one (Eatons Corners) is a small crossroads hamlet, two (Mariaville and Quaker Street) are larger hamlets and one (Delanson) is an incorporated village. They are widely dispersed throughout the town with little or no physical relation to the other historic resources in Duanesburg.

Like most of Duanesburg's historic resources, the properties included in the historic districts are predominantly residential with occasional examples of churches (in the Delanson, Quaker Street and Mariaville Historic Districts) and commercial structures (in the Quaker Street and Mariaville Historic Districts). As a whole, the resources in the four districts are executed in a broad range of architectural styles (Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne/Eastlake and Colonial Revival) dating from ca.1800-ca.1930. The Eatons Corners and Quaker Street Historic Districts contain several Federal style structures from the first quarter of the nineteenth century reflecting the early development of the town. The Eatons Corners, Quaker Street and Mariaville Historic Districts all contain examples of Greek Revival style architecture, reflecting Duanesburg's growth and prosperity during the second quarter of the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Duanesburg Multiple Resource Area

Continuation sheet Duanesburg, Schenectady Co., NY Item number

7

Page

4

For NPS use only

received

date entered

nineteenth century. While the Delanson Historic District contains the town's only concentration of intact, picturesque, late Victorian era architecture, there are also examples of the period located in the Quaker Street Historic District. The Quaker Street Historic District contains the only contributing twentieth-century structures included in the multiple resource area nomination.

The survey also identified one group of mid-nineteenth century residential properties linked thematically, the corpus of a single master builder, Alexander Delos Jones. The Boss Jones Thematic Resources consist of eight architecturally significant Greek Revival style farmhouses, built between ca. 1850 and ca. 1860, which are historically associated with Alexander Delos "Boss" Jones, Duanesburg's most prolific mid-nineteenth century master builder. Although there are similarities between the Boss Jones houses and other Greek Revival style houses in Duanesburg, the Boss Jones houses are generally slightly more sophisticated, more fully developed adaptations of the style.

Although several of the farmhouses are widely dispersed, most are concentrated in the vicinity of McGuire School Road in the west section of town just north of Route 20. The eight houses are the Alexander (Sandy) Liddle House (ca. 1850), the Robert Liddle House (ca. 1850), the Avery Farmhouse (ca. 1850s), the Jenkins Octagon House (ca. 1850s), the Ladd Farmhouse (ca. 1850s), the Shute Octagon House (ca. 1850s), the George W. Howard House (late 1850s) and the Boss Jones House (ca. 1860). All eight are two-story frame structures; seven have clapboard siding. (The board-and-batten siding of the Boss Jones House, however, has recently been covered with aluminum siding). All display Greek Revival style attributes, including boxed cornices, wide friezes, broad corner boards and trabeated entrances with recessed doorways flanked by wide pilasters and/or sidelights.

As seen in Duanesburg's other Greek Revival style structures, a variety of forms is represented: the most common is the three-bay, side- or center-hall form with the gable end oriented towards the street, as seen in the Ladd Farmhouse, the Alexander (Sandy) Liddle House and the Robert Liddle House. Another common form is the five-bay, center-hall variation, as seen in the Boss Jones House and the George W. Howard House. While both are recognizable Greek Revival style houses, their hipped roofs reflect the influence of the Italianate style. The octagonal house form, popularized in the mid-nineteenth century, is seen in the Jenkins Octagon House and the Shute Octagon House. Both feature Greek Revival style detailing. A rare surviving example of the temple-front form is the Avery Farmhouse.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Duanesburg Multiple Resource Area

Continuation sheet Duanesburg, Schenectady Co., NY Item number

7

Page 5

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Of the twenty-six individual properties included in the nomination, twenty-three are rural dwellings (one with associated tenant house), one is a village dwelling, and two are churches. Twenty of the dwellings are farmhouses, one is a former parsonage, and two are the residents associated with large estates. They are widely dispersed throughout the town with little or no physical relation to each other or to other components of the multiple resource area nomination. Most of the nominated farms include much of their original acreage, often one hundred acres or more. Although small road-side parcels of some of these farms have been sold and developed, the settings retain substantial integrity.

The primary residential structures are generally one and one-half to two-story frame structures with clapboard siding. Dating from ca. 1780 to ca. 1876, the structures reflect the influence of a broad range of architectural styles, including Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate and late Victorian eclectic. Most of the farmhouses are relatively modest vernacular buildings characterized by simplicity and regularity in design and restraint in detailing. Many feature a variety of additions and minor alterations; generally, exact dates of these changes are unknown, but most appear to date from the nineteenth century. Unless specifically noted as non-contributing on individual forms, additions and slight alterations which reflect the changing needs of the occupants do not compromise the original integrity of the structure.

Most nominated farms include concentrations of contributing, farm-related secondary structures. Outbuildings are generally clustered near the farmhouse and are, with the exception of a few masonry smoke-houses, executed in wood. Horse, dairy and hay barns, chicken coops and pig pens, machine and tool sheds, garages, privies and/or spring-houses are located on many of the farmsteads. In general, construction of outbuildings on the town's rural farms was not documented and too little is known to determine exact dates of construction, but observation reveals that a pattern of evolution can be discerned: the earliest barns in the town are English style barns without basements. Many display a massive swing beam next to the central aisle. In the second half of the nineteenth century, as dairying became more significant to the local economy, the same form was used, but with a raised basement and a ramped machine entrance. A common variant featured a half basement, entered from one end. Unlike many parts of New York State, horizontal siding predominates in Duanesburg's barns and vertical siding appears to have been introduced relatively late in the nineteenth century. Gambrel roofs were also introduced late in the century. Barns, sheds and even garages were framed with heavy timbers well into the twentieth century.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Duanesburg Multiple Resource Area

Continuation sheet Duanesburg, Schenectady Co, NY Item number

7

Page 6

For NPS use only	28
received	
date entered	

The earliest extant houses in the town are the Vought Farmstead (ca. 1780) and the North Tenant House (ca. 1783), both of which are one and one-half story, five-bay, center-hall buildings exhibiting the "saltbox" form characteristic of eighteenth-century houses in New England. The most sophisticated architectural design in the town is seen in the three Federal period buildings constructed by Duanesburg's leading family in the southeast quadrant of the town, a group which includes the church constructed by James Duane and the estate houses belonging to two of his daughters. Christ Episcopal Church constructed between 1787 and 1793, is an outstanding example of an eighteenth century meetinghouse of the side-entrance form common in New England but rarely found in New York State. The North Mansion (ca. 1795), built some years after its saltbox-form Tenant House, exhibits the hipped roof, pedimented windows and delicate classical detailing characteristic of Georgian style architecture, the only example of this style in the town. The Duane Mansion (ca. 1812-1816) is a squarish, two-story frame residence with a low hipped roof, prominent two-story piazza supported by Doric columns, round-topped floor length windows opening onto the piazza, and three identical entrances sheltered by gabled porches supported by slender Ionic columns. With its simple, symmetrical form and sophisticated detailing, it is a distinctive example of Federal design and an unusual rural interpretation of the Adamesque vocabulary.

Most of the vernacular farmhouses date from the first half of the century and exhibit Federal and Greek Revival style features. The Federal period houses are one and one-half to two-story frame structures with clapboard siding. All are five bays wide with center halls. Delicate detailing, particularly entrance trim, characterizes these structures. They are the George Lasher Farmhouse (ca. 1800), the Joseph Wing Farm Complex (ca. 1820), the Sheldon Farmhouse (ca. 1795), the Reformed Presbyterian Church Parsonage (ca. 1829), the Gaige Homestead (ca. 1830), the Pepper House (Random Acres) (ca. 1790), and the Macomber Stone House (ca. 1836; the town's only example of masonry construction). There are three transitional farmhouses, dating from the late 1820s and 1830s, which begin to reflect the influence of the Greek Revival style. They are the Howard Homestead (late 1820s), the Chapman Farmhouse (ca. 1832) and the William R. Wing Farm Complex (ca. 1836). Federal period forms persist (including the five-bay center-hall form) but structural elements and detailing, including friezes, corner boards and entrance trim, are heavier and more exaggerated. Dating from the 1830s and 1840s, the Greek Revival style houses included as individual components in the nomination are one and one-half to two-story frame structures with clapboard siding. Three variations are represented: the five-bay, center-hall form, the three-bay, side-hall form with the ridge of the gable roof parallel to the street (sometimes referred to as a "two-thirds" house) and the three-bay, side- or center-hall form with the gable end oriented towards the street. The eight Greek Revival style farmhouses are the Abrahams

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Duanesburg Multiple Resource Area

For NPS use only	NOV 28 1984
received	
date entered	

Continuation sheet Duanesburg, Schenectady Co, NY item number 7

Page 7

Farmhouse (ca. 1839), the Hawes Homestead (ca. 1830s), the Halladay Farmhouse (ca. 1830s), the Joseph Green Farmhouse (ca. 1857), the Thomas Liddle Farm Complex (ca. 1850), the Ferguson Farm Complex (ca. 1848) and the Joseph Braman House (ca. 1850s).

By the mid-nineteenth century, the influence of the Italianate style began to appear throughout the town. Although most of Duanesburg's Italianate style structures are located in the villages and hamlets, there is one individual component included in the nomination which reflects the influence of the style. It is the Becker Farmhouse (ca. 1850). Features exhibited by the house which are associated with the style include the low-pitched, hipped roof surmounted by a cupola, the projecting bay window and the round-arched double doors. The dentils, modillions and scroll-sawn brackets which embellish the house are also Italianate style features. (Two other rural farmhouses, the George W. Howard House and the Boss Jones House, both individual components of the Boss Jones Thematic Resources, also reflect the influence of the Italianate style. ( See p.4, 5 )

Although the influence of the late nineteenth century picturesque ideal is most frequently seen in Duanesburg's hamlets and villages, several rural farmhouse display picturesque, eclectic features associated with the period. They are the Chadwick Farmhouse (ca. 1870) and the Gilbert Farmhouse (ca. 1860). Although still adhering to the strict vernacular traditions which determined much of Duanesburg's architectural development, these two farmhouses exhibit decorative features such as cross gables, ornamental window lintels and front verandahs embellished with elaborate woodwork.

The single individual component in a village setting is the Jenkins House (the Grey Barn) (ca. 1876), a picturesque, late nineteenth century structure with eclectic features. It is located in the village of Delanson, just north of the Delanson Historic District. The sophisticated dwelling features a prominent tower with a slate-covered mansard roof surmounted by iron cresting, a wide frieze with scroll brackets, a two-story bay window and a front verandah with elaborate woodwork.

The remaining individual property is the Duanesburg-Florida Baptist Church (ca. 1860s; 1891), a late Greek Revival style, frame edifice with a late Victorian era, eclectic facade. It is located just east of the crossroads hamlet of Bramans Corners in the northwest quadrant of town. The engaged square tower with its variety of ornamental woodwork is the church's most prominent feature. Greek Revival period attributes include the wide frieze and broad corner boards.

AUG 28 1984

<u>Component</u>	<u>Period of Significance</u>	<u>Description</u>
1. <u>Vought Farmhouse</u>	c. 1780	New England style "salt box" farmhouse; only intact example of its type in Duanesburg.
2. <u>George Lasher House</u>	c. 1800	Sophisticated Federal style farmhouse with elegant Palladian window.
3. <u>Joseph Wing Farm Complex</u>	c. 1820	Vernacular Federal style farmhouse; notable collection of intact, farm-related outbuildings.
4. <u>Sheldon Farmhouse</u>	c. 1795	Vernacular Federal style farmhouse.
5. <u>Reformed Presbyterian Church Parsonage</u>	c. 1829	Vernacular Federal style residence with notable Federal period entrance detailing.
6. <u>Gaige Homestead</u>	c. 1830	Vernacular Federal style farmhouse, intact collection of farm-related outbuildings.
7. <u>Pepper House</u> (Random Acres)	c. 1790	Vernacular Federal style farmhouse, notable collection of farm-related outbuildings.

<u>Component</u>	<u>Period of Significance</u>	<u>Description</u>
8. <u>Macomber Stone House</u>	c. 1828	Vernacular Federal style farmhouse, Duanesburg's only example of a masonry residence.
9. <u>Howard Homestead</u>	c. 1830s	Vernacular transitional period (late Federal/early Greek Revival style) farmhouse.
10. <u>Chapman Farmhouse</u>	c. 1830s	Vernacular transitional period (late Federal/early Greek Revival style) farmhouse.
11. <u>William R. Wing Farm Complex</u>	c. 1836	Vernacular transitional period (late Federal/early Greek Revival style) farmhouse.
12. <u>Abrahams Farmhouse</u>	c. 1839	Vernacular Greek Revival style farmhouse, five-bay, center-hall variation
13. <u>Hawes Homestead</u>	c. 1840s	Vernacular Greek Revival style farmhouse; five-bay center-hall variation; notable collection of out-buildings including a rare masonry smokehouse.
14. <u>Halladay Farmhouse</u>	c. 1840s	Vernacular Greek Revival style farmhouse, five-bay center-hall variation.
15. <u>Joseph Green Farmhouse</u>	c. 1857	Vernacular Greek Revival style farmhouse; "two-thirds" house type variation
16. <u>Thomas Liddle Farm Complex</u>	c. 1850	Vernacular Greek Revival style farmhouse; "two-thirds" house type variation; notable collection of intact period outbuildings.
17. <u>Ferguson Farmhouse</u>	c. 1848	Vernacular Greek Revival style farmhouse; three-bay variation.

AUG 28 1984

<u>Component</u>	<u>Period of Significance</u>	<u>Description</u>
18. <u>Joseph Braman House</u>	c. 1850s	Vernacular Greek Revival style residence; three-bay, side-hall variation.
19. <u>Becker Farmhouse</u>	c. 1850	Early Italianate style farmhouse; low-pitched, hipped roof surmounted by prominent cupola.
20. <u>Chadwick Farmhouse</u>	c. 1870	Picturesque, eclectic farmhouse; prominent front cross gable and elaborate front verandah.
21. <u>Gilbert Farmhouse</u>	c. 1860	Picturesque, eclectic farmhouse; front verandah with ornamental woodwork.
22. <u>Jenkins House</u> (Grey Barn)	c. 1876	Sophisticated village residence with picturesque, eclectic features.
23. <u>Duanesburg-Florida</u> <u>Baptist Church</u>	c. 1868; c. 1891	Late Greek Revival style edifice with Queen Anne/ eclectic facade by A. Wilmot

<u>Component</u>	<u>Period of Significance</u>	<u>Description</u>
24. <u>Delanson Historic District</u>	c. 1860-c. 1890	19 properties; 31 contributing components; Duanesburg's only collection of picturesque, late Victorian era architecture.
25. <u>Eatons Corners Historic District</u>	c. 1800-c. 1840	Three properties; eleven contributing components; historic core of the early nineteenth century cross-roads hamlet.
26. <u>Quaker Street Historic District</u>	c. 1800-1910	43 properties (40 contributing); 63 contributing components; core of Duanesburg's early to mid-nineteenth century commercial center; predominantly residential.
27. <u>Mariaville Historic District</u>	c. 1830-1850	8 properties (7 contributing); 11 contributing components; historic core of early nineteenth century industrial hamlet; predominantly residential.
28. <u>Christ Episcopal Church</u>	c. 1792-93	New England style, side-entrance meetinghouse.
29. <u>Duane Mansion</u>	c. 1812-16	Distinctive, sophisticated example of Federal style architecture; country seat of the James Duane family.
30. <u>North Mansion and Tenant House</u>	c. 1793; 1780s	Sophisticated Federal style residence; home of William North, son-in-law of James Duane; tenant house : altered "saltbox" form house.

<u>Component</u>	<u>Period of Significance</u>	<u>Description</u>
31. <u>Alexander (Sandy) Liddle House</u> (Boss Jones Thematic Resources)	c. 1850	Greek Revival style farmhouse; three-bay, center-hall variation.
32. <u>Robert Liddle Farmhouse</u> (Boss Jones Thematic Resources)	c. 1850	Greek Revival style farmhouse; three-bay, center-hall variation.
33. <u>Avery Farmhouse</u> (Boss Jones Thematic Resources)	c. 1850s	Greek Revival style farmhouse; three-bay, center-hall variation; one of two temple-fronts in the town.
34. <u>George W. Howard House</u> (Boss Jones Thematic Resources)	c. 1850s	Late Greek Revival/early Italianate style farmhouse; five-bay center-hall variation, prominent cupola surmounts hipped roof.
35. <u>Jenkins Octagon House</u> (Boss Jones Thematic Resources)	c. 1850s	Octagon style farmhouse with Greek Revival style features
36. <u>Shute Octagon House</u> (Boss Jones Thematic Resources)	c. 1850s	Octagon style farmhouse with Greek Revival style features.
37. <u>Boss Jones House</u> (Boss Jones Thematic Resources)	c. 1860	Late Greek Revival/early Italianate style farmhouse; five-bay, center-hall variation; board and batten siding recently obscured by aluminum siding.
38. <u>Ladd Farmhouse</u> (Boss Jones Thematic Resources)	c. 1850s	Greek Revival style farmhouse; three-bay, center-hall variation.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** ca.1780–ca.1930 **Builder/Architect** See individual forms

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Duanesburg Multiple Resource Area nomination includes 103 architecturally and/or historically significant properties dating from c. 1780 to c. 1930. Together, the four historic districts, one thematic resource groups and twenty-six individual components reflect the historical development of the town from its earliest prosperity as an agricultural community overseen by the founder and landlord of the town, James Duane, to its twentieth century popularity as a bedroom community for the cities of Schenectady and Albany and its continued stability as a productive farming region. The primary significance of most of the properties is architectural. While several structures are highly sophisticated and fashionable examples of their particular periods and styles, the majority of the structures are finely crafted, vernacular adaptations of a variety of popular American styles, including Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, Gothic Revival, Second Empire, Queen Anne/Eastlake and Colonial Revival. Eclectic interpretations of the major styles survive as well. Particularly notable in the rural areas are the numerous vernacular Federal and Greek Revival style farmhouses. All display a variety of well-crafted, distinctive features of their periods and styles and most survive in intact historic farm settings.

The three hamlets and one village encompassed by the historic districts are characterized by a broad range of architectural styles from a wide range of dates with distinguished and/or representative examples of architecture from all periods of the town's history. The Eatons Corners Historic District is a distinctive collection of Federal and Greek Revival style structures reflecting the early nineteenth century development of a small, crossroads family controlled hamlet; the Mariaville Historic District is a significant collection of Greek Revival style structures reflecting the growth of the hamlet around Mariaville's late eighteenth/early nineteenth century mills; the Quaker Street Historic District is distinguished for its nineteenth-century structures which reflect the importance of the early Quakers in Duanesburg and the hamlet's subsequent prominence as the town's mid-nineteenth century commercial center; the Delanson Historic District is distinguished as the town's only intact concentration of picturesque, late nineteenth century architecture.

The properties included in the multiple resource area nomination are the town's best, most intact structures, which together represent nearly every phase of Duanesburg's growth and development. The only phase of the town's development not represented in the nomination is the late eighteenth/nineteenth century industrial activity, as the archeological potential of Duanesburg's mill sites has not yet been evaluated. Most buildings in the town are vernacular interpretations of national architectural fashions. The sophisticated Federal period architecture of the Christ Episcopal Church, constructed under the supervision of James Duane, and the two estate houses associated with Duane's daughters, the North Mansion and the Duane Mansion, suggest the work of master architects, but the only attributions have been speculative. In the case of the Duane Mansion, original landscape plans by the noted campus designer Jacques Ramee do survive. Some of the town's best, most mature interpretations of

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National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

Duanesburg Multiple Resource Area

Continuation sheet Duanesburg, Schenectady Co, NY Item number 8

Page 2

the Greek Revival style were created by master builder Alexander Delos Jones, and are included in the Boss Jones Thematic Resources. The only professional architect whose work is represented in the multiple resource area is Andrew Wilmot of Amsterdam, New York, who designed the 1891 facade addition to the Duanesburg-Florida Baptist Church.

In addition several of the properties included in the nomination derive historical, significance from their association with locally, regionally and nationally prominent persons. Most notable are the properties associated with James Duane, his land agent and son-in-law William North, his daughter Catharine Livingston Duane, and her nephew James D. Featherstonhaugh. The Duane, North, and Featherstonhaugh families were elevated socially above other town residents -- their social peers were the neighboring patroons, heroic officers of the Continental army, and their Livingston cousins -- but were also deeply concerned with the day-to-day life of the town, as managers of the land, political representatives, philanthropists, and economic advisors. In addition to their direct associations with Christ Episcopal Church, the North Mansion, and Duane Mansion, their donations, economic control, and political leadership directed the development of numerous other properties in the town.

James Duane's father, Anthony, emigrated from Ireland to America in the second decade of the eighteenth century. He settled in New York City and soon became a prosperous merchant. Through his friendship with Colonel Robert Livingston, the lord of Livingston Manor in Columbia County, Anthony developed an interest in land speculation, prompting him to acquire 6,000 acres of land southwest of Schenectady, New York.

James Duane, born February 6, 1733, was the third son of Anthony's second wife. When Anthony died in 1747, James was sent to live with Robert Livingston who became mentor and model for the young man. There the young Duane was greatly influenced by Livingston's land speculation activities and the manorial system of land development. In 1754 Duane entered the law profession after serving a seven-year clerkship in the New York City law office of one of the most noted colonial attorneys, James Alexander. Early in his prosperous career, Duane acquired, through purchase and inheritance, the original 6,000 acres of land that his father held and soon began to develop the family holdings at Duanesburg with the idea of founding a city that would be the thriving metropolis of northern New York. He eventually acquired a total of 60,000 acres, comprising almost the entire town of Duanesburg.

In 1759 Duane married Robert Livingston's daughter, Maria, who bore him five children, Mary, Sarah, James C., Catharine and Adelia. Duane's efforts to settle portions of his holdings were thwarted by the agents of Sir William Johnson, a rival land owner in the Mohawk Valley who circulated unfavorable reports about Duane's lands. It was not until 1764 that Duane entered into a settlement with nineteen Germans from Frankfort, Pennsylvania, and one from New York City. Modelled after the tenant/landlord system on Livingston Manor, Duane's agreement required that he provide 100-acre farms and a town lot to serve as a village center and commons. In return, the farmers would settle the land within the year and pay an annual quitrent. Eleven families actually settled on Duane's land and in 1765, a township was designated.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Duanesburg Multiple Resource Area

Continuation sheet Duanesburg, Schenectady Co. Item number

3

Page

3

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received

date entered

During the 1760s Duane had a large and profitable law practice in New York City and Albany, dealing extensively with boundary disputes relating to the New York Colony. At the same time Duane was actively involved in overseeing the development of his Duanesburg property. The increasing trouble with England, however, demanded Duane's attention elsewhere. He was elected a delegate to the Continental Congress of 1774 and served in each succeeding Congress until peace was established. He was also active in the Provincial Congress of New York and in 1778 New York State Governor Clinton appointed him commissioner of Indian affairs. In 1784 he accepted an appointment as the first mayor of New York City, a position in which he served until 1789 when George Washington named him judge of the United States District Court. Among Duane's distinguished friends in this period were Baron Von Steuben and the Baron's aide (and later his heir) William North. In 1783 North retired from active service and came to Duanesburg to serve as Duane's estate agent. Duane had intended to turn his attention to Duanesburg after the Revolution, but the demands of his political career in the 1770s and 1780s prevented him from residing year-round in Duanesburg, and the depletion of his fortunes by the war slowed development there. He was, however, able to spend his summers in Schenectady with his family.

By the late 1780s the need for a religious center for the community became apparent. Duane provided a ten-acre parcel of land, intended to be the commons for the village of Duanesburg, on which a church was to be built. In 1787 a site for the erection of the edifice was cleared and Duane began to solicit contributions from his New York City friends. However, he raised only fifty pounds and it was several years before he could hire a builder. In 1793 Christ Episcopal Church was completed. The resulting structure, unaltered since the addition of a steeple in 1811, remains an outstanding example of Federal style meetinghouse architecture, and the only example of a frame, side-entrance meetinghouse in upstate New York.

Duane retired from public service in 1794, intending to settle in Duanesburg. He began construction of his country seat in the center of the town shortly after his retirement but died suddenly in 1797 before the dwelling was completed. He was buried in a vault underneath Christ Episcopal Church, his resting place marked by his wife's admonition to the tenants: "Planted in the Wilderness by his hand, people of Duanesburgh, you were his Children: Imitate his Virtues, Adore the Deity, love your Country, love one another." His wife, daughters, sons-in-law, and three grandchildren were also interred in the family vault in later years.

James Duane's four daughters survived him and three settled permanently in Duanesburg: the eldest, Mary, was married to General William North, a distinguished officer in the Revolution. In 1783 North came to Duanesburg to assist Duane in managing the estate and in 1787 he married Mary Duane. In the late 1780s or early 1790s North had dammed a small creek to form Duane Lake and had begun building beside it North Mansion, a fine residence in the English Georgian style. It appears that the Tenant House (ca. 1780s) was the first structure on the estate, where the Norths lived while building the mansion.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Duanesburg Multiple Resource Area

Continuation sheet Duanesburg, Schenectady Co

Item number

8

Page

4

For NPS use only

received

date entered

The second daughter, Sarah, married an Englishman, George William Featherstonhaugh, an accomplished scientist who promoted agricultural improvements at his experimental farm and through his writings. Their mansion, built in 1809 on the banks of Featherstonhaugh Lake, burned in 1829.

The youngest daughter, Catharine Livingston Duane, built the Duane Mansion ca. 1812-1816. With landscaping by Joseph Jacques Ramée, it is an extraordinary example of late Federal design. It passed by will to her nephew, James D. Featherstonhaugh, and remains in the family to the present.

After the second generation, descendants of the Duane family who remained in Duanesburg became less important in the affairs of the community, although members of the family continued their involvement with Christ Episcopal Church into the last quarter of the nineteenth century, and the Featherstonhaughs have been prominent in regional politics. The Duane Mansion was the last major Duane family construction in the town and represents the last generation of manor house architecture.

Duanesburg was first settled in 1765 when James Duane recruited eleven German families from Pennsylvania to develop his 60,000-acre holdings southwest of Schenectady. Duane, raised by the prominent Columbia County patroon Robert Livingston, intended to establish the manorial system in Duanesburg.

Although James Duane and his heirs intended to establish the manorial system in Duanesburg, their manorial control was rather loose. Duane oversaw the early development of the town by establishing mills and allocating farmsteads and he and his heirs contributed largely to the cultural and religious life of the town. However, the patterns of development in the town were determined as much by the early farmers and entrepreneurs as by the Duanes. Duane's first mill, erected in 1765 on the Bozenkill in the remote southeast corner of town, was never a success. Duane's second mill, established in Mariaville in 1793, gave rise to a prosperous settlement which continued to thrive during the nineteenth century due to the successful commercial and milling concerns of Silas Marsh in the 1830s.

The patterns of land use which persisted throughout Duanesburg's historic development were fairly well established in the first years of its settlement. A map in the New York State archives (#74744, bearing the initials J.D. and a date of 1765) shows the boundaries of Duane's town with this caption:

"The Town Plot is Something better than 20 miles from Albany on a straight line, 24 miles from Schenectade and 9 miles from Schoharie along the new Road. The Township is laid out into Farms of 100 Acres each-- a number of Germans have begun a settlement. In the Town is a pot ash work and a number of Tradesmen. The Slater's eight Farms lie all near the Town two of them upon the Highway ....

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Duanesburg Multiple Resource Area

Continuation sheet Duanesburg, Schenectady Co, NY Item number 8

Page 5

It is evident from this description that much of the present cultural landscape was already established at this early date: the "Schenectade Road" is today's Route 7; the "New Road" would later become the Schoharie Turnpike (County Route 74); and "the Highway," historically known as the Great Western Turnpike, is today's Route 20, still a major thoroughfare west from Albany. The "Town" or "Town Plot" was a 100-acre parcel set aside by Duane for development as a village common. Duane envisioned a thriving metropolis with the village common as the town center and focus of development, but it was overshadowed from an early date by the important crossroads one and one-quarter miles to the east which became the hamlet of Duanesburg. The plot was eventually assigned for church and school use. The only intact historic resources surviving from late eighteenth/early nineteenth century development of the commons area are the Christ Episcopal Church (c. 1792-93, individual component), and the Reformed Presbyterian Church Parsonage (c. 1829) (individual component).

While Duanesburg's major roads and land divisions are recognizable from this 1765 map, little else remains from the pre-Revolutionary period. History does not record what happened to the original German settlers, but there are no clearly Germanic names or culture traits in the town. An influx of Scottish immigrants in the last years of the eighteenth century is remembered in the geography of "Scotch Ridge" and in the Reformed Presbyterian Church. By the 1810s, the town was dominated by English- and Scots-surnamed families, some emigrating directly from Britain, from Connecticut and eastern New York. Many of the settlers, particularly the Quakers, came from Dutchess County, and it is possible that Duane was actively recruiting tenants from the Dutchess County lands of his wife's family, the Livingstons. Town records from this period were destroyed in an 1830s fire and so the documentary information on the town's early years is limited.

The earliest concentrations of settlers were unrelated to Duane's establishment of the village commons. In the early years of the town, widely dispersed settlements began to develop near the intersections of colonial thoroughfares and around the mill sites. Beginning in the late eighteenth century the hamlet of Duanesburg, known first as Duanesburg Post Office, developed about one and one-quarter miles to the east of the village commons at the junction of the Schenectady and Albany Roads (Routes 7 and 20). Although Duanesburg continues to be a significant commercial center, it retains little of its historic character and no properties in the hamlet were identified in the survey as eligible for nomination.

Other communities established by the turn of the eighteenth century include Mariaville, Quaker Street, Eatons Corners, Bramans Corners and Greens Corners. The hamlet of Mariaville developed in the vicinity of the Duane mills, established in 1793. The entrepreneurial activities of Silas Marsh in the 1830s assured Mariaville's continued industrial prominence

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

AUG 28 1984

Duanesburg Multiple Resource Area

Continuation sheet Duanesburg, Schenectady Co, NY Item number 8

Page 6

and prosperity throughout the nineteenth century. The core of the early nineteenth century hamlet survives intact and is included in the nomination as the Mariaville Historic District. The district is a significant concentration of Greek Revival style architecture constructed between 1830 and 1850 which reflects the vigor and prosperity of the town's early nineteenth century industrial development.

The community of Quaker Street grew up around the intersection of Route 7, the Schoharie Turnpike and Quaker Lake (Gallupville Road) (the major thoroughfares into Schoharie County), where the Society of Friends had established their meetinghouse c. 1780. Industrious and prosperous farmers, the Quakers developed Quaker Street first as an agricultural market center, later as a commercial and industrial community. The early to mid-nineteenth century shoemaking industry, established by Kirby Wilber, bolstered the development which, by the mid-nineteenth century, had become the town's primary commercial center. The Quaker Street Historic District is a significant collection of residential, religious and commercial properties from the period c. 1800 - c. 1910, which together reflect the hamlet's late eighteenth to early twentieth century development.

Eatons Corners, Bramans Corners and Greens Corners were among a number of small, family controlled hamlets which developed in the town during the late eighteenth/early nineteenth centuries. Where a family gained control of a crossroads, had access to water-power and technology for a small industry, and/or the initiative and capital to establish a store, the family holdings often expanded into a small hamlet. For example, James Eaton built the stylish Eaton Homestead on Farm Lot 263 prior to 1800. From 1809 to 1815 it was owned by inventor Benjamin Cummings, who developed a short-lived industrial complex on the Schoharie Creek one mile west. In 1815, the homestead reverted to the Eaton family and, under the direction of Lewis Eaton, became an award-winning farm. Barlow Tavern was established at the crossroads prior to 1830, by which time the settlement was known as Eatons Corners. Land north of the crossroads was later developed by the Patterson family, who began the first postal service to the district, and for a time the hamlet was known as Pattersons Corners. However, the remaining historic features date from the earlier development and are nominated as the Eatons Corners Historic District.

Known once again as Eatons Corners, it is the only nineteenth-century, family controlled hamlet which retains its historic integrity. The Eatons Corners Historic District, a grouping of three properties containing notable Federal and Greek Revival style buildings, is a rare survival of a community form common in the early nineteenth century in Duanesburg.

Bramans Corners and Greens Corners, although no longer intact, historic communities, were typical, family controlled crossroadshamlets. The hamlet later known as Bramans Corners was first known as Parlor Street after the family who owned a farm and operated a tannery there. Dr. Joseph Braman

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

AUG 28 1984

date entered

Duaneburg Multiple Resource Area  
Continuation sheet Duaneburg, Schenectady Co, NY Item number 8

Page 7

acquired the land in the 1810s and here taught school, practiced medicine, managed his farm, helped establish the Universalist Church and by 1840 had opened a store. By the 1860s, Bramans Corners boasted a school, two churches, two stores and a post office. In modern times, however, it has lost much of its early character and is represented in this nomination by two discontiguous properties, the Joseph Braman House (c. 1850s home of the hamlet's most prominent citizen) and the Duaneburg-Florida Baptist Church (c. 1868; 1891), both individual components of the nomination.

Another such hamlet was Green Corners, west of Mariaville. The Green family settled in this area prior to 1792 and by 1860 had established a blacksmith shop, a woolen factory, a school house and at least three Green family homes. The most recent of these, the c. 1857 Joseph Green Farmhouse, is the only remaining feature of the hamlet to retain its historic integrity.

Concurrent with the establishment of these hamlets in the late eighteenth to early nineteenth century was the development of widely dispersed farmsteads in the rural wilderness of the town. While the first settlers cleared farms, it is commonly believed that they lived in temporary shelters. No structural remains of the pre-Revolutionary War settlement period farms survive intact. The earliest buildings included in the nomination date from the last two decades of the eighteenth century. The earliest structure, the Vought House (c. 1780, individual component), is a pre-Federal "saltbox" farmhouse, architecturally significant as the only intact example of this building type in the town. The tenant house (c. 1784), of the North Mansion (c. 1793, individual component), is a much-altered example of the saltbox form, significant for its association with James Duane's land agent.

After c. 1790, the influence of the Federal style began to appear in Duaneburg. Rural as well as inner-hamlet examples of the period survive intact, exhibiting a broad range of levels of sophistication and craftsmanship. The town's best examples of the style are the three properties associated with James Duane and his daughters. The finest architectural specimen from the early Federal period is the elegant North Mansion (c. 1793), a traditional Georgian country house of two-stories and five bays, with a center hall, hipped roof, and rich, finely crafted embellishment. The Duane Mansion (c. 1812-1816), an imposing and sophisticated residence, is representative of a small set of country seats built by manorial landlords in upstate New York. In its exaggerated delicacy and attenuation of line, and modified classical proportions, the Duane Mansion exemplifies the Federal period liberation from Georgian constraints. Another exceptionally distinguished example of the Federal period architecture is the Christ Episcopal Church (c. 1792-93), unique in upstate New York as a New England style, side-entrance meetinghouse form.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

AUG 28 1984

received

date entered

Duaneburg Multiple Resource Area

Continuation sheet Duaneburg, Schenectady Co, NY Item number 8

Page 8

Although less imposing and stylish than the structures built by James Duane, William North, and Catherine Duane, there are numerous examples of late eighteenth and early nineteenth century residences in the town which exhibit finely crafted Federal period features. The examples included in the nomination are widely dispersed throughout the town; they are found on isolated rural farms as well as in hamlets and villages. Most are relatively modest structures which, in design and detailing, adhere to the strict vernacular tradition of simplicity, regularity and rectilinearity, from which construction in the town seldom deviated. Duaneburg's vernacular Federal style dwellings are generally one and one-half to two-story frame structures with clapboard siding and medium-pitched gable roofs with brick interior end chimneys. Most are five bays wide and have center halls flanked by paired rooms, a house type typical of the period throughout the northeastern United States. Also typical of the period is the attenuated, Neoclassical ornamentation. Detailing is generally modest and restrained; curvilinear features commonly associated with the Adamesque style, such as fanlights, lunettes and arcades, are relatively rare in the town. Notable exceptions which do exhibit distinctive curvilinear features include the Eaton Homestead (c. 1800) (Eatons Corners Historic District), with its elegantly arcaded facade, and the George Lasher House (c. 1800) (individual component), with its prominent Palladian window. The more numerous examples of modest, vernacular Federal style architecture are characterized by shallow cornices, narrow corner-boards and attenuated entrance detailing including half-sidelights and slender pilasters. Representative examples include the Joseph Wing Farm Complex (c. 1820), the Sheldon Farmhouse (c. 1795), the Gaige Homestead (c. 1830), the Pepper House (Random Acres, c. 1790) and the Macomber Stone House (c. 1828). These five rural farmhouses are all individual components of the nomination. The Macomber Stone House is additionally significant as the town's only masonry residence. The Reformed Presbyterian Church Parsonage (c. 1829) (individual component), historically associated with the no longer extant Reformed Presbyterian Church, is also a representative example of vernacular Federal style architecture. There are also several structures in villages and hamlets which feature vernacular, Federal period attributes. Buildings 0099, 0097 and 0095 in the Quaker Street Historic District and the Barlow Tavern in the Eatons Corners Historic District are typical examples of the period and style.

By the end of the first quarter of the nineteenth century, many of Duaneburg's farmsteads were settled. Family controlled hamlets continued to prosper throughout the second quarter of the nineteenth century; large families expanded their holdings by absorbing neighboring farm lots and subdividing them along new lines for new generations. Representing this trend are the Howard Homestead (c. 1830s) (individual component) and the George W. Howard Farmhouse (c. 1850s) (individual component of the Boss Jones Thematic Resources). The Howard family had occupied a homestead on Lot 185 since 1789. (The rear section of the Howard Homestead may date

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

AUG 28 1984

received

date entered

Duanesburg Multiple Resource Area

Continuation sheet Duanesburg, Schenectady Co, NY Item number 8

Page 9

from the early date, although the present structure's primary architectural significance is derived from its main block, which was constructed in the 1830s ). By mid-nineteenth century, the Howards' lots 185 and, to the north, 178, were divided into two properties and George W. Howard erected his farmhouse, which continues in the family (now Waddells) today. The old Howard Homestead was eventually sold off.

Other families were more widely dispersed, such as the Wings, early Quaker settlers who seem to have acquired new land and built a house in every generation: the Sheldon Farmhouse was their first (1790s ), followed by the Joseph Wing Farm Complex (c. 1825) and then the William R. Wing Farm Complex (c. 1836), all individual components of the nomination. The numerous Liddle family was more widely dispersed; Robert Liddle, born in neighboring Princetown in 1803, had twelve children, many of whom bought farms in Duanesburg in the mid-nineteenth century. The Robert Liddle Farmhouse (c. 1850s ) and the Alexander "Sandy" Liddle Farmhouse (c. 1850 ) (both individual components of the Boss Jones Thematic Resources) and the Thomas Liddle Farm Complex (c. 1850) (individual component), also reflect the mid-nineteenth century expansion of the family holdings of one of Duanesburg's most prominent families in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Architecturally significant structures included in the multiple resource area nomination dating from this era (1820s to 1850s ) embody, to varying degrees and levels of sophistication, the distinctive characteristics of the Greek Revival style. A few examples of transitional (late Federal/early Greek Revival) dwellings survive intact, including the Howard Homestead (c. 1830s ), the Chapman Farmhouse (c. 1830s ) and the William R. Wing Farm Complex (c. 1836). All three are individual components. A fourth example of a transitional dwelling from this period is the Conner House (c. 1830), a component of the Mariaville Historic District. To varying degrees, the four retain some level of Federal form and detailing, but all are enhanced with Greek Revival style features such as wide friezes, boxed cornices, broad corner boards and/or trabeated entrances with deeply recessed doorways.

By the 1840s fully developed examples of the Greek Revival style appear in the town. Numerous examples, generally vernacular interpretations of the style, survive intact; distinctive attributes displayed by the town's 1840s and 1850s architecture include gable roofs with wide friezes or full entablatures, exaggerated cornice returns or pedimented gable ends, eyebrow windows, broad corner pilasters and trabeated entrances with wide pilasters surmounted by full entablatures. Three common house forms survive from this period: the five-bay, center-hall house, the "two-thirds" house and the three-bay, side- or center-hall house. Numerous representative examples of five-bay, center-hall dwellings survive intact, including the Abrahams House (c. 1839), the Hawes House (c. 1840s ) and the Halladay Farmhouse (c. 1840s ), all rural farmhouses (all individual components).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

AUG 28 1986

received

date entered

Duanesburg Multiple Resource Area

Continuation sheet Duanesburg, Schenectady Co, NY Item number 8

Page 10

Buildings 0070 and 0082, in the Quaker Street Historic District, the Hiram Hansett House (c. 1830s ), the Frost Homestead (c. 1830s ) and the Silas Marsh House (c. 1831) in the Mariaville Historic District are also representative examples of the five-bay center-hall form.

There are two intact examples of the "two-thirds" house form; both are individual components. They are the Thomas Liddle Farm Complex (c. 1850), notable for its slender proportions and wide panelled corner pilasters, and the much heavier Joseph Green Farmhouse (c. 1857).

The most common house form in Duanesburg dating from the Greek Revival period is the three-bay, gable-front variation with a side or center-hall. Several variations of this form survive intact, including the two-winged variation and the mature temple front. Examples of one-winged houses include the Brumley Homestead (c. 1840s ) in the Eaton's Corners Historic District and the First Presbyterian Church Parsonage (c. 1847) in the Mariaville Historic District. The two-winged form is seen in the Joseph Braman House (c. 1850s ), the only intact historic structure associated with the cross-roads hamlet of Bramans Corners, and the Ferguson Farmhouse (c. 1848); both are included in the nomination as individual components. Building 0073 (c. 1850s ) in the Quaker Street Historic District and Avery Farmhouse (c. 1850s ) (Boss Jones Thematic Resources) are significant examples of the temple-front form with distinctive giant porticos.

The development of Greek Revival architecture in Duanesburg culminates in the work of Alexander Delos ("Boss") Jones, a master carpenter active during the 1850s. Local historical tradition has identified eight houses in the town as the work of "Boss" Jones. All are included in the Boss Jones Thematic Resources. All are architecturally significant Greek Revival style farmhouses characterized by the fully matured features of the period and style: corner and entrance pilasters are broad and often marked with panels; entablatures are fully developed with wide friezes; entrances are trabeated with recessed doorways surrounded by sidelights, pilasters and transom lights; gables have full pediments or exaggerated cornice returns. In addition to this standard Greek Revival vocabulary, Jones's buildings incorporate features previously unknown in Duanesburg, including cupolas, hipped roofs, porticos and octagons. Representative examples of three-bay gable-front houses in the Boss Jones Thematic Resources are the Ladd Farmhouse, the Alexander (Sandy) Liddle Farmhouse, and the Robert Liddle Farmhouse, all dating from the 1850s. The Avery Farmhouse (c. 1850s ), with its giant pedimented portico, is a distinctive temple-front structure, one of only two extant examples in Duanesburg. The Boss Jones House (c. 1860) and the George W. Howard House (c. 1850s ) also exhibit typical Greek Revival style features; however, their hipped roofs and the cupola on the Howard House may reflect the influence of the nationally popular Italianate style. Jones also used Greek Revival detailing on the Jenkins Octagon House

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

AUG 28 1984

received

date entered

Duanesburg Multiple Resource Area

Continuation sheet Duanesburg, Schenectady Co, NY Item number 8

Page 11

and the Shute Octagon House (both 1850s ), the county's only examples of the octagon plan popularized by Orson Fowler in the mid-nineteenth century. Besides experimenting with the octagon form, Jones also introduced other innovations to the vocabulary of Duanesburg's vernacular architecture, including the use of board-and-batten siding and the stacked-plank method of construction. The stacked-plank method is known to have been employed in three houses, the Jenkins Octagon, the Shute Octagon and Boss Jones's own house. Although most of Boss Jones's houses are believed to utilize conventional heavy timber framing, additional research may identify other stacked-plank houses in this group.

In 1858 Duanesburg farmers, increasingly dissatisfied with the manorial system of land ownership, rebelled against their landlord by forming an Anti-Rent Association. The Duane family acquiesced to the demands, abolished the old rents, and retired from the landlord role. It is perhaps an indication of the Duane's enlightened patronage that the rebellion came so late; by this time, the anti-rent wars in neighboring Albany County were already more than a decade past. It must also be noted that the manorial system did not seem to have the repressive effect on enterprise so often claimed: by 1858 Duanesburg was reporting 33,911.5 acres, over three-quarters of the town's total acreage, as improved, comprising over one-third of the total improved acreage in the county at that time. Duanesburg's statistics that year (when compared with those from neighboring towns) convey a picture of ample architectural productivity, excelling in the areas of spring grain, butter and especially cheese, and general prosperity, indicated by a total valuation of real and personal property at over a million dollars.

By the 1850s and 1860s, most of the town's farmsteads were mature and fully developed, changing only as innovations in agricultural practice called for improved outbuildings. (Thus most of the significant farm-related outbuildings included in the nomination date from periods later than the periods of the farmhouses with which they are associated.) Most new construction activity during these decades occurred in the hamlets and villages where new industrial undertakings and commercial activity were bringing increased prosperity and rapid expansion. Quaker Street, Duanesburg's center of commercial activity during the first half of the century, was, by 1850, a flourishing hamlet with a prosperous boot and shoe industry as well as general stores, harness and wagon shops, a sash-and-blind factory and numerous houses. By 1860, the hamlet had acquired much of the character that it retains today, as represented by the properties included in the Quaker Street Historic District. The advent of rail transportation in Duanesburg in the early 1860s spurred the development of Quaker Street Depot (later known as Delanson), a trackside settlement which soon succeeded Quaker Street as the primary commercial center of the town. However, other than spurring the growth of Delanson, rail transportation did not have a substantial impact on the development of other areas of the town. Its limited impact on farming is reflected in the expansion of dairy farming and a shift from production of butter to fresh milk for export during this period.

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Inventory—Nomination Form

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Duanesburg Multiple Resource Area

Continuation sheet Duanesburg, Schenectady Co, NY Item number 8

Page 12

Significant structures included in the nomination dating from this period (1850s and 1860s) of Duanesburg's development reflect the influence of the Italianate style. Distinctive features of the period and style exhibited by dwellings of the period include low-pitched hipped roofs, broadly projecting eaves (often embellished with carved brackets), bay windows and verandahs. The best, most fully developed example of the style is Building 0088 in the Quaker Street Historic District; distinguished by its ornately bracketed eaves, its pedimented central pavilion and projecting bay windows with narrow, round-arched windows. Numerous, less sophisticated examples of the style are scattered throughout Quaker Street. It is illustrative of the town's slow adoption of national fashions that most are essentially L-shaped buildings of the Greek Revival period transformed by hipped roofs, bracketed cornices and entrance hoods, projecting bay windows, double-doors, and/or porches with Italianate style ornamentation. The Becker Farmhouse (c. 1850) (individual component) is Duanesburg's best example of a rural, Italianate style farmhouse. Although similar to the George W. Howard Farmhouse (c. 1850s) and the Boss Jones House (c. 1860) (both included in Boss Jones Thematic Resources), the Becker Farmhouse is a more fully developed interpretation of the Italianate style with a low-pitched, hipped roof surmounted by a prominent cupola, a projecting bay window and a verandah with ornamental post brackets. The rectangular configuration, the three-bay side-hall facade and the wide, Greek Revival style corner pilasters, however, reflect the persistence of forms and features which had been popular several decades before the construction of the Becker Farmhouse.

During and after the Civil War, and throughout the last quarter of the nineteenth century, Duanesburg entered a period of relative quiescence and there was little construction activity. Thus, buildings reflecting the national popularity of picturesque forms and elaborate ornamentation are uncommon in the town, except in the village of Delanson, which, by the 1870s, was a thriving commercial center due to the railroad activity. Coalyards, reputed to be the largest in the world at the time, were established, and the settlement prospered, as reflected by the stylish dwellings included in the Delanson Historic District. The district is an architecturally significant collection of post-Civil War, Victorian period architecture constructed during a relatively short period between 1860 and 1890 and consists mostly of two-story frame cottages probably derived from pattern books of the period. Particularly notable examples of Delanson's elaborate, late Victorian era architecture include 26 Main Street, with its particularly elaborate woodwork in the apex of the gable ends and on the frieze and the porch; 25 Main Street, with its polychrome slate mansard roof; and 22 Main Street, with its prominent front cross gable and ornamental bargeboards.

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

AUG 28 1984

received

date entered

Duanesburg Multiple Resource Area

Continuation sheet Duanesburg, Schenectady Co, NY Item number 8

Page 13

Delanson's (and Duanesburg's) best, most intact example of late Victorian eclecticism is the Jenkins House (the Grey Barn, c. 1876, individual component) just north of the Delanson Historic District. With its mansard-roofed tower, jerkin-headed gables, bracketed eaves, two-story bay windows and round-arched door, the Jenkins House, is a highly distinguished example of period architecture.

In the rural areas of the multiple resource area, the impact of the later nineteenth century national fashions was very limited. One of two farmhouses to show extensive late Victorian period influence is the William Chadwick Farmhouse (c. 1870, individual component). Distinctive features of the period exhibited by the Chadwick Farmhouse include the polychrome slate patterning on its picturesque cross-gable roof, a projecting bay window with bracketed cornice and a broad, front verandah with turned posts and ornate support brackets. Even here, however, the continuity of the earlier vernacular tradition can be seen in the house's five-bay, center-hall configuration, a standard form common in the town for at least a century. The second rural example of architecture from this period is the John C. Gilbert Farmhouse (c. 1860, individual component). Again, although still conforming to the strict regularity and relative simplicity of the vernacular tradition, the influence of the more picturesque architectural fashions of this era is apparent in the house's picturesque front verandah with ornamental, pierced post-brackets.

More frequent than new construction during the post-Civil War era was the addition of late Victorian eclectic features to early and mid-nineteenth century vernacular structures. The most common form of embellishment seen in Duanesburg is the addition of ornamental woodwork to eaves and porches. Such decoration can be seen on many of the structures in the Quaker Street Historic District, perhaps most notably the pierced wooden frieze added to the austere, early nineteenth century Quaker Meetinghouse.

A similar chronology of architectural development can be seen in the town's non-domestic architecture. Each of the town's six churches is an example of the typical white, frame, rectangular plan meetinghouse popular in the region throughout the nineteenth century; yet, each exhibits the distinctive, decorative features of its period. The best example of Federal period religious architecture in the town is the Christ Episcopal Church (c. 1792, individual component). The church is an outstanding example of a side-pulpit, side-entrance, New England meetinghouse. It is an extremely well-preserved example of its type, rarely found in upstate New York. Also representative of religious activity during the town's early development is the Quaker Meetinghouse (c. 1807, Quaker Street Historic District), a distinctive example of the form required by Quaker religious practice and a typical example of the Quaker aesthetic of plainness.

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Inventory—Nomination Form

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AUG 28 1984

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Duanesburg Multiple Resource Area

Continuation sheet Duanesburg, Schenectady Co, NY Item number 8

Page 14

Three church buildings from the mid-nineteenth century all exhibit the typical modest Greek Revival style features that characterize Duanesburg's residential architecture from this period, including wide friezes, broad corner pilasters, pedimented gable ends and/or trabeated entrances. These are: the First Presbyterian Church (c. 1842, Mariaville Historic District), First Christ Church (c. 1859, Quaker Street Historic District) and the early portion of the Duanesburg-Florida Baptist Church (c. 1868-69, individual component).

Reflecting the popularity of the picturesque styles of the second half of the nineteenth century are the Delanson Methodist Church (c. 1876, Delanson Historic District) and the facade of Duanesburg-Florida Baptist Church (c. 1891, individual component). The Delanson Methodist Church, with its lancet windows, false buttresses and polychrome slate roof, is a distinctive example of the Victorian era Carpenter Gothic style in the town. The facade of the Duanesburg-Florida Baptist Church, added in 1893 to an earlier structure in the Greek Revival style, features eclectic Victorian era embellishment, most notably its variety of ornamental woodwork.

Duanesburg continued to be primarily an agricultural town well into the twentieth century and became increasingly dependent upon rail transportation for its products. The railroad yards at Delanson continued to be a major source of employment after 1890, but the demise of the coalyards and the decline in the use of rail transportation in the 1930s adversely affected the economic security of the town. In addition, the early twentieth century success of the General Electric Company in nearby Schenectady further undermined the rural economy of the town. As the eastern section of the county became the focal point of development during the second quarter of the twentieth century, construction in Duanesburg subsided. Some of the town's small hamlets succumbed to twentieth-century development and lost their historic integrity; parcels of many rural farmsteads were sold off and developed; older farmhouses were modernized. Since 1950, the town has developed as a bedroom community for the cities of Schenectady and Albany, and construction has increased correspondingly. Most new construction has been on scattered sites along rural roads; there are few major subdivisions. With the completion of Interstate 88 through the town in 1983, modern development is likely to increase. Thus far, however, the town retains its rural character and most of the town's historic settlements and many of its farmsteads retain their historic setting and feeling.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

## 10. Geographical Data see inventory forms

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name Duanesburg, Esperance, Gallupville, Rotterdam Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References Junction, Schoharie

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the multiple resource area follows the legal boundary of the Town of Duanesburg.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
			NA

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lucy A. Breyer (see con't sheet)

organization Division for Historic Preservation date 8/84

street & number Agency Bldg. 1 Empire State Plaza telephone 518-474-0479

city or town Albany state New York

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Julia S. Stokoe

title Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation

date 8/23/84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

See Continuation Sheet for Listing date \_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Duanesburg Multiple Resource Area  
Duanesburg, Schenectady Co, N.Y.  
Continuation sheet      Item number      9

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Page      2

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Research Files, NYS Division for Historic Preservation, Albany, N.Y.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Duanesburg (Town) Multiple Resource Area (Partial: Historical &  
Continuation sheet Architectural) Duanesburg, Schenectady Co., NY

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11

Page

2

Survey prepared by: Schenectady County Planning Dept.  
Schenectady, New York

Research and documentation provided by:

Nancy Todd, Historic Preservation Consultant  
38 Saratoga Drive  
Scotia, NY 12302

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National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1 of 4

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Duanesburg Multiple Resource Area

State Schenectady County, NEW YORK

Nomination/Type of Review

1. Vought Farmhouse

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION  
Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

2. Delanson Historic District

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

3. Braman, Joseph, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

4. Eatons Corners Historic District

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

5. Mariaville Historic District

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

6. Quaker Street Historic District

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

7. Abrahams Farmhouse

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

8. Becker Farmhouse

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

9. Chadwick Farmhouse

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

10. Chapman Farmhouse

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

for Corn Patrick Andrews 4/24/87

Date/Signature

Interim Eligible

for Dan Dwyer 10/11/84

for Dan Dwyer 10/11/84

Patrick Andrews 4/24/87

Boyd L. Savage 4-24-87

Delores Byers 10/11/84

Delores Byers 10/11/84

Delores Byers 10/11/84

Delores Byers 10/11/84

Delores Byers 10/11/84

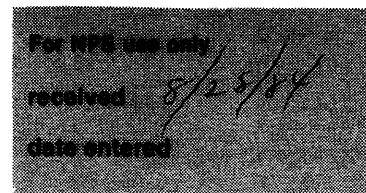
Delores Byers 10/11/84

Delores Byers 10/11/84

Delores Byers 10/11/84

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National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 2 of 4

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Duanesburg Multiple Resource Area  
State Schenectady County, NEW YORK

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Duanesburg-Florida Baptist Church  
Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/11/84

Attest

12. Ferguson Farm Complex  
Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Melvin Byers 4/28/87

Attest

13. Gaige Homestead  
Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/11/84

Attest

14. Gilbert Farmhouse  
Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/11/84

Attest

15. Green, Joseph, Farmhouse  
Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/11/84

Attest

16. Halladay Farmhouse  
Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/11/84

Attest

17. Hawes Homestead  
Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/11/84

Attest

18. Howard Homestead  
Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/11/84

Attest

19. Jenkins House  
Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/11/84

Attest

20. Lasher, George, House  
Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Melvin Byers 10/11/84

Attest

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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received 8/28/84

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 3 of 4

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic GroupName Duanesburg Multiple Resource Area  
State Schenectady County, NEW YORK

## Nomination/Type of Review

## Date/Signature

21. Liddle, Thomas, Farm
- 
- Complex

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Shelous Byers 10/11/84

22. Macomber Stone House

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Shelous Byers 10/11/84

23. Reformed Presbyterian
- 
- Church Parsonage

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Shelous Byers 10/11/84

24. Sheldon Farmhouse

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Shelous Byers 10/11/84

25. Wing, Joseph, Farm
- 
- Complex

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Shelous Byers 10/11/84

26. Wing, William R., Farm
- 
- Complex

Entered in the  
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Shelous Byers 10/11/84

- 27.
- ~~Duane Family Thematic Resource~~
- 
- ~~Cover~~

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

28. Christ Episcopal Church
- 
- (Duane Family TR)

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

Patrick Andrews 4/24/87

29. Duane Mansion
- 
- (Duane Family TR)

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

Betty L. Saenger 4-24-87

30. North Mansion and Tenant House
- 
- (Duane Family TR)

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

Patrick Andrews 4/24/87Betty L. Saenger 4-24-87Patrick Andrews 4/24/87Betty L. Saenger 4-24-87

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National Register of Historic Places  
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Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 4 of 4

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Duanesburg Multiple Resource Area

State Schenectady County, NEW YORK

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

31. Boss Jones Thematic Resources

Keeper

Cover

Substantive Review

Attest

32. Avery Farmhouse  
(Boss Jones TR)

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

33. Howard, George, Farmhouse  
(Boss Jones TR)

Substantive Review

Determined Eligible

Keeper

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

34. Jenkins Octagon House  
(Boss Jones TR)

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

35. Jones, A.D. (Boss), House  
(Boss Jones TR)

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

36. Ladd Farmhouse  
(Boss Jones TR)

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

37. Liddle, Alexander, Farmhouse  
(Boss Jones TR)

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

38. Liddle, Robert, Farmhouse  
(Boss Jones TR)

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

39. Shute Octagon House  
(Boss Jones TR)

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

40.

Keeper

Attest