



KANKAKEE COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The Preservationist

Special points of interest:

- National Register of Historic Places
- Weatherization Tips & Strategies
- Discover Historic Momence
- Preservation Planning Starts by Establishing Historic Context
- Kankakee County Preservation Plan—Update

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National Register of Historic Places

Do you know which historic places in your community are listed on the National Register? In Kankakee County there are 13 properties included on the National Register:

1. B. Harley Bradley House and Stable, 701 S. Harrison Ave., Kankakee.
2. Downtown Momence Historic District, Momence.
3. Durham-Perry Farmstead, 459 N. Kennedy Dr. Kankakee.
4. Warren Hickox House, 687 S. Harrison Ave., Kankakee.
5. Hunter-Hattenburg House, 687 S. Harrison Ave., Kankakee.
6. Illinois Central Railroad Depot, 199 S. East Ave., Kankakee.
7. Kankakee County Courthouse, 450 E. Court St., Kankakee.
8. Kankakee State Hospital Historic District, 100 E. Jeffery St., Kankakee.
9. Lemuel Milk Carriage House, 165 N. Indiana Ave., Kankakee.
10. Point School, 6976 N. Vincennes Trail, Grant Park.
11. Riverview Historic District, Kankakee.
12. Charles E. Swannell House, 901 S. Chicago Ave., Kankakee.
13. Windrose Site, Bourbonnais.

You may have been aware that these spots are historical places, but there are actually many more places in Kankakee County that are also eligible for listing on the Register.

In Kankakee County there are three properties listed on the local register:

1. Kankakee County Courthouse.
2. George R. Letourneau House, 659 Stratford Dr. East Bourbonnais.
3. Durham-Perry Farmstead, 459 N. Kennedy Drive, Bourbonnais

What makes an historic property eligible for listing on a Historic Register?
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Weatherization Tips & Strategies

Taken from www.preservationnation.org

Keeping original windows in a house is more than just a “going green” issue. Windows are character defining features of any home. The size, placement, proportional relationship to wall space, style, and materials of windows contribute to how a building looks and feels.

1. Old Windows are Built with High Quality Materials.
2. Old Windows “Fit” Their Openings.
3. Old Windows Can Be Repaired
4. Old Windows Perform Well and are Energy Efficient.

“Any historic building with its original sashes and glazing therefore retains a higher degree of architectural integrity than a comparable structure in which the sashes have been replaced. Where original sashes survive, their preservation should be a paramount concern of the building’s owner.” Historian and author James Garvin

Discover Historic Momence



Two places you might want to visit in Historic Momence, Illinois: The Little Red Schoolhouse and The Momence Graham Historic House and Museum.



This one-room brick school served the children of Ganeer Township from 1853-1921. It was once located in Mt. Airy Cemetery and was often used for memorial services.

The Little Red Schoolhouse Wish List

Please visit their website for a wish list of donations. They could certainly use monetary donations to help pay for a much needed roof on the school.

In 1983, the Woman's Club of Momence chose to take on the restoration of the Little Red Schoolhouse. The school was moved to Momence School District property, the community came together to raise funds, and contractors were hired. The Little Red Schoolhouse Museum was dedicated on June 16, 1984.

In the fall, a new roof was installed to protect the interior. If you would like to donate toward this preservation effort or for a tour of this one-room school, please contact: Marlene Bedell at 815.932.5794



The Graham Historic House and Museum in Momence is located at 117 N. Dixie Highway. To prevent demolition, the Momence Women's Club again

ration of the house, said, "the interior is always a work in progress." But wait till you see it. The house has been beautifully decorated and takes you



went into action approaching the Mayor and City Council with a proposal to preserve the house. The house built in 1869, was purchased by the City of Momence in 1973. The grand opening of the house museum occurred in 1974 after original renovations were completed.

However, new renovations of this beautiful Italianate style house began again in 2013. The exterior received repairs and fresh paint. In the interior of the house, the ceilings and walls were re-plastered, the floors were refinished and fresh paint was added in historical colors. A re-opening of the museum was held in December of 2014. Nancy Porter, who plays a significant role in the resto-

back to a simpler place and time. You will want to sit and absorb the atmosphere of this house...if only the walls could talk.

The house museum also has war memorabilia exhibits honoring Col. James Kasler and Sergeant Rex Rowe.

There is always something special happening at the Graham Historic House and Museum. You will want to learn more about their Holiday Doll Raffle, the "Tree in a Teacup" contest, and the holiday gathering to be held on Saturday, December 5th.

If you would like to volunteer, donate Momence memorabilia or antiques, or obtain additional historical information on these places, please visit: momencehistoricalhouse.com.

National Register of Historic Places

(cont. from page 1)

A house doesn't have to be elegant or one designed by a famous architect.

Ordinary places remind us of the county's historic past and are important to remember and protect: farmsteads, barns, creameries, silos, abandoned railroad stations, grain elevators, bridges, schools and churches.

Many people have either owned or admired a property that they would like to see protected. You may be worried about what might happen to your property once you are not the owner.

Historic houses included as part of a historic district become places of importance to a city (for example: the Riverview Historic District in Kankakee). These houses are normally well cared for by their proud owners, are sought after by buyers, and become tourist attractions for the city or county. Groups of commercial properties with a related history and location can be listed (example- Downtown Momence).

Criteria exist which guides the assessment of a property as historically, architecturally or

archaeologically significant. To be eligible for the National Register, a property must qualify under one of the following:

- Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the history of the area.
- Is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, represents the work of a master, and possess high artistic value.
- Yields or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

When considering a property for the National Register or as a local landmark, it is important to know:

- If the property physically presents an accurate sense of its past. Has it retained its original material, or has it been replaced, covered, removed, or altered. Has the property been moved to a new location or have additions been made.
- What is the architectural style, and are

their others like it in the community.

- How does it relate to the history of the community? Is it part of a theme or trend? (example: French-Canadian settlements, houses built for the Bradley Manufacturing employees, early ethnic farmsteads, Illinois Central Railroad towns).

Throughout this year and most of 2016, the Kankakee County Preservation Commission will be working on a Preservation Plan for Kankakee County. The Commission wants to know:

- What is important to you?
- Do you want to be notified about village meetings that will be scheduled for 2016?
- Can you help to identify historic properties and sites?
- Do you own a farm or know of one that should be listed as an historic site?
- Do you just have questions you want to ask?

As we study the early settlers of Kankakee County, we learn that timber, water and good farm land were factors when selecting property

to settle on. The early immigrants used the timber and local limestone to build their first home, but as they became more productive and more materials were available to them, construction methods improved and styles changed. Depending on whether they were European immigrants or from the Eastern U.S. their houses quite often reflected the styles of where they came from. Pattern books were available in later years from which to choose a design or the owners hired architects.

Most houses, barns or commercial buildings are dateable by style and material. Collecting information on city properties can be less challenging than others as city properties tend to appear in more records.

Our next newsletter will offer suggestions on how to research your property. If you have an interest in the history of your community, please contact us for more information.

(See page 4 for contact info)



KANKAKEE COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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The Preservationist

Preservation Planning Starts by Establishing Historic Context

In order to better understand something in history, we must look at its context. Historic context organizes information based on a theme, geographic limits and chronological period. A single historic context describes one or more aspects of the historic development of an area, for example, Coal Mining in Essex Township between the 1860s—1974. What are the significant broad patterns of development in the area you live and what specific historic properties represent those patterns?

Once the historic context is developed there is a foundation for decisions about identification, evaluation, registration and treatment of historic properties. Public participation is important to the final preservation plan. The Kankakee County Preservation Commission will be holding village meetings starting in January to acquire new information that sometimes only the residents of a particular township know. The meetings will provide an open forum for discussion of preservation issues.

Goals are then established along with priorities for those goals. This then provides an outline for the preservation work that the community desires. The goals may change with time as new information is added.

Kankakee Counties Preservation Plan ... Update

Many of us are familiar with the National Register of Historic Places. In fact, there are several Kankakee County structures and or sites that are honored to be on the list.

Arguably, the most significant preservation activity takes place at the local level. The activity may be in the form of individual citizens preserving and rehabilitating historic buildings, historical societies collecting and preserving historically significant artifacts and photos, genealogical societies preserving lineage data or a County Preservation Commission identifying, preserving and protecting important historic resources. Any of these types of activities support historic preservation.

The Kankakee County Historic Preservation Commission has undertaken a year long project which will ultimately produce a preservation plan

for Kankakee County. The commission is presently pulling together research material and writing the "historic context" of each township. This summary will help define which historic properties are significant to each historic context.

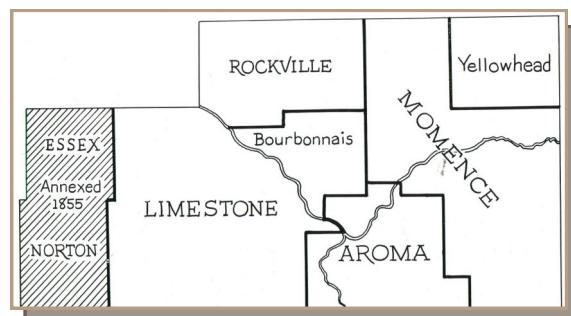
This information will include when each township was developed, who the first settlers were and what events were significant in its development.

The commission is asking the help of all interested individuals, organizations and municipalities

within the county. The Commission wants to know what matters to you in regards to historical properties. Many people in the county have places that are important to them. Help identify, evaluate, register and decide how you want such properties protected that are historically or architecturally significant.

Contact the KCHPC and tell us what properties matter to you. You will be notified of the time and location of scheduled meetings.

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Kankakee County's original townships in 1853.
(Reproduced from "Of the People" by Houde & Klasey)