

VLR ✓  
NRHP-5-16-02

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name A.G. Pless, Jr. House

other names/site number VDHR file no. 113-5032

#### 2. Location

street & number 942 Glendale Road N/A not for publication

city or town Galax N/A vicinity

state Virginia code VA county Carroll code 035 Zip 24333

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination      request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant      nationally      statewide X locally. (     See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*M. Catherine Kussner* March 29, 2002  
Signature of certifying official Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets      does not meet the National Register criteria. (     See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
     See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
     See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action







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

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title: Paul Hardin Kapp, AIA

Organization: Kapp & Robbins Architects date 6 September 2001

street & number: 107 West Grayson Street telephone (540)-236-7775

city or town Galax state VA zip code 24333

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. Jack Galyean

street & number 942 Glendale Road telephone (540)-236-4921

city or town Galax state VA zip code 24333

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Continuation Sheet

A.G. Pless, Jr. House  
Galax, Virginia

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## NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

### Summary

The A.G. Pless, Jr., House is a single-family residence located on old U.S. 58 (now Glendale Road) in the eastern section of the City of Galax, Virginia. It is a two-story wood frame building built in the Colonial Revival Style and is a little over 3,000 square feet in size. It is situated on a lot that is approximately 1 acre in size and that is terraced on the east side and north side. An English garden with a circular drive is located on the front and southwest side of the house. The building exhibits all of the characteristics of the Colonial Revival style of the early part of the twentieth century, and its design was clearly influenced by house precedents in Colonial Williamsburg.

### Inventory

1. A.G. Pless, Jr. House, 1939. Contributing building
2. Detached Garage, 1941. Contributing building

### Exterior

The A. G. Pless, Jr., House is a gable-ended two-story building with a rear two-story wing that comes off the center of the building; there is a one-story clapboard wing on the west side of the building and a one-story lean porch with a shed roof on the east side of the building. Its front façade, which faces south, is comprised of three bays; the center bay has a one-story porch that covers the front door and that has square posts with ogee molding capitals. There are two flanking chimneys on either gable end. All of the windows on the building are double-hung sash windows that have a six-over-nine lite configuration. The front door is a six-panel door that is flanked by sidelights over raised panels.

The one-story sun porch has low wood-framed jack arches. There are four bays on the east side and two bays on the north and south side of the porch, and two double-hung sash windows are situated in each bay on the east side; a patio door is located on the south side. The roof has a 10 to 12 pitch and is covered with asbestos shingles. Only the south/front façade windows have wood-louvered shutters with wrought iron hardware. A two-car garage on the west side of the building is connected to the main building by an open-air breezeway that has low jack arches similar to the east porch. The garage is also wood frame and gable ended and is similar in detailing to the main house; off of the car bays is a small business office with a small bathroom.

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A.G. Pless, Jr. House  
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**DESCRIPTION (continued)**

The exterior is carefully detailed in the Colonial Revival style: the heart pine clapboard is beaded, and the window and door casings have backbanded moldings. The house has box cornices that have beaded frieze boards, carved modillion blocks, simple rakes, and copper ogee built-in gutters. The box cornices return on themselves at all of the gable ends of the house.

**Interior**

The layout of the interior of the house is comprised of a center hall which is flanked by a living room on the east side and a dining room on the west side. A straight-run stairway is located on the east side of the center hall; it has simple turned pickets, turned newels, and raised paneled painted wainscoting. A den is at the end of the north side of the center hall. A stairway below the main stairway leads one down to the basement, which has a finished pine-paneled game room and a large mechanical room. The basement's structural walls are all poured-in-place concrete.

All of the ceilings on the first floor are 9 feet tall. Both the living room and the dining room have deep plaster cornices with large cyma recta crown mouldings and rakes. The living room mantle has raised panels, fluted triglyths, and fluted pilasters. The living room and the dining room also have raised paneled wainscoting, similar to the center hall. Adjacent to the dining room on the north side is a small butler's pantry/ office, which leads into the kitchen.

The second floor has three bedrooms and a bathroom over the front door. The master bedroom has plaster cornices similar to the living room and the dining room, and the fireplace has a similar treatment to the living room. The second floor also has 9-foot-tall ceilings; all of the rooms in the house have 2 ½"-wide red oak strip floors, as well as plaster walls and ceilings.

The A.G. Pless, Jr., House exhibits the expert design of the noted Winston-Salem, North Carolina, architect William Roy Wallace. Wallace is known for his outstanding Colonial Revival residential designs in the North Carolina Piedmont area and in southwestern and southern Virginia in the first half of the twentieth century.

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**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**Summary**

The A.G. Pless, Jr., House, located near the eastern city limits of Galax, Virginia, along old U.S. 58 (now Glendale Road) is an outstanding example of Colonial Revival residential architecture that was prevalent throughout Virginia in the first half of the twentieth century. Its high level of architectural detailing and use of high-grade materials make it an important example of the early work of the noted architect William Roy Wallace of Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

**Applicable Criteria**

The A.G. Pless, Jr., House is an intricately designed Colonial Revival residence built in 1939 in the City of Galax, Virginia. The house was designed by Winston-Salem, North Carolina, architect William Roy Wallace for local businessman and civic leader, Asbury Glenn Pless, Jr.<sup>1</sup> With its elaborate exterior colonial detailing, its interior plaster mouldings, and picturesque landscape features, the A.G. Pless, Jr., House is an outstanding surviving example of Wallace's more modest residential designs and should be considered for eligibility for the National Register and Virginia Landmark Register under Criteria C for its architectural design.

**Acknowledgments**

The author wishes to acknowledge the following people for assistance in the preparation of this nomination. Foremost among these people are the owners of the property, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Galyean, who provided the architectural drawings. The author also wishes to thank Mr. John Pless for providing personal insights into the history of the property and the lives of the original owners, Mr. and Mrs. Asbury Glenn Pless, Jr., as well as Mrs. Rita Edwards, Curator of the Jeff Mathews Museum in Galax. Finally, the author wishes to acknowledge Dr. John R. Kern and Mr. Mike Pulice of the Roanoke Regional Preservation Office of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources for their assistance on this project.

**Historic Context**

Asbury Glenn Pless, Jr., was born in Grayson County, Virginia, in 1907. Pless lived in the young town of Galax until 1916, when his family moved to Daytona Beach, Florida; here he graduated from Seabreeze High School. He would later attend the University of Florida, where he lettered in football, baseball, and track. Upon graduating from the University of Florida, Pless began a career in

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)**

professional baseball, playing for several minor league baseball teams. His career ended after he lost his left hand in an automobile accident. He returned to Galax and worked as a laborer; later he became the head football coach for Galax High School. In 1936 he married Ms. KenEtta Fulton of Bridle Creek, Virginia, and started an appliance business in downtown Galax. They had two children.<sup>2</sup>

By 1939, despite the Great Depression, the Pless Appliance and Furniture Store had prospered and had enabled the Pless family to build a new house on the outskirts of Galax. They engaged the services of architect William Roy Wallace to design the house.<sup>3</sup> Prior to moving to Winston-Salem, Wallace had worked in the office of noted Philadelphia architect Charles Barton Keen from 1909 to 1927. Wallace accompanied Keen to Winston-Salem in 1927 after the completion of Keen's Reynolds House for tobacco magnet R. J. Reynolds. He established his own practice in 1928 in association with Harold Macklin. Wallace became a registered architect in Virginia in 1937. Other residential designs of note by him in Virginia include the Addison Schoolfield House in Pittsylvania County and Eltham Manor in Henry County, built for William McKinley Bassett. All of them were built at about the same time as the A.G. Pless, Jr., House.<sup>4</sup>

During the 1940s Pless served on the Galax City Council and was instrumental in leading efforts to persuade the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to implement flood control along Chestnut Creek in Galax after the flood of 1941. His business grew and expanded to the neighboring towns of Fries, Wytheville, Pulaski, and Radford. He retired in 1971 and helped form the Jeff Mathews Museum, which focuses on the history of Galax and the Twin County region. Pless died in 1995.<sup>5</sup>

Ms. KenEtta Pless lived in the house until she died in 2000.<sup>6</sup> The house was purchased later that year by Jack and Lynda Galyean, who have begun restoring the house and updating its mechanical and electrical systems.<sup>7</sup> The A.G. Pless, Jr., House retains all of its architectural and landscape elements as well as its site context along old U.S. 58, now known as Glendale Road.

**Endnotes**

<sup>1</sup> Carroll County Deed Book 71, Page 1.

<sup>2</sup> Pless John G. Unpublished Manuscript, Jeff Mathews Museum, Galax, Virginia, 2000.

<sup>3</sup> Wallace, William Roy. Construction Drawings for the A.G. Pless, Jr. House. Private Collection. Galax, Virginia, 1939.

<sup>4</sup> Wells, John E., and Robert E. Dalton. The Virginia Architects, 1835-1955: A Biographical Dictionary. Richmond, Virginia: New South Press, 1997. Page 461.

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)**

- 5 Interview with Mr. John G. Pless, May 20, 2001.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 Carroll County Deed Book 0579, Page 1030.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

1. Carroll County Registry of Deeds.
2. Personal Interview by the Author of Mr. John G. Pless.
3. Pless, John G. "Unpublished Manuscript of the Lives of Asbury Glenn Pless, Jr. and Mrs. Kennetta Pless". Jeff Mathews Museum, Galax, Virginia.
4. Wallace, William Roy. Architectural Drawings of the A.G. Pless, Jr. House. Private Collection. Galax, Virginia.
5. Wells, John E. and Dalton, Robert E. *The Virginia Architects, 1835-1955: a Biographical Dictionary*. (Richmond, VA: New South Architectural Press, 1997).

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated parcel corresponds to Tax #11 – 30 in the City of Galax and is depicted on the attached map that accompanies the nomination.

**Boundary Justification**

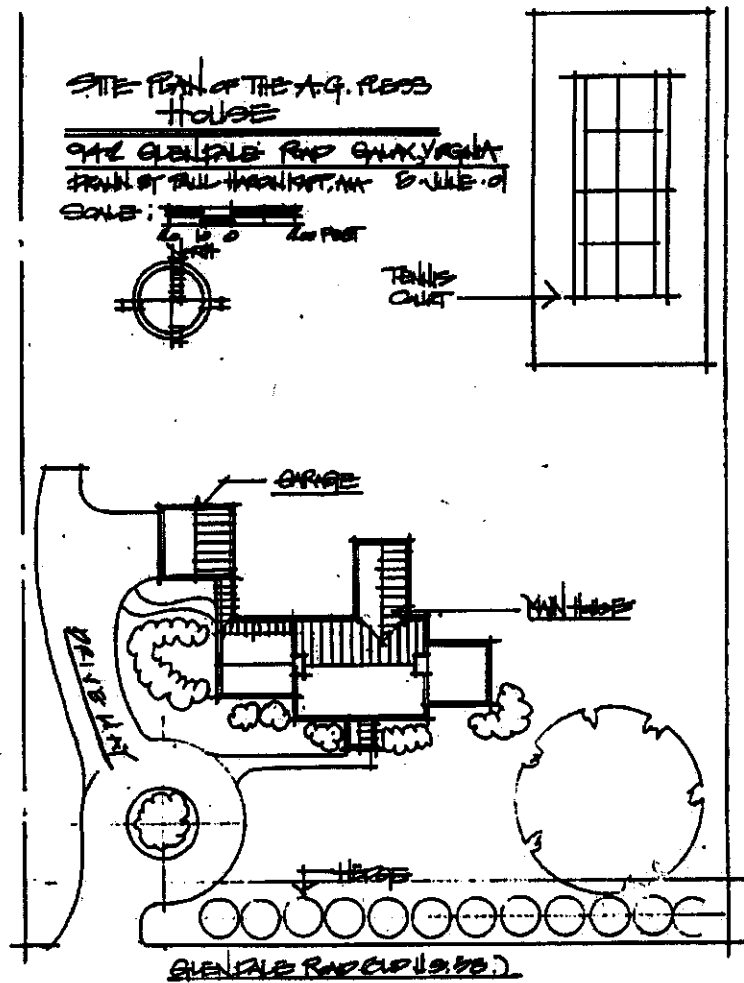
The boundaries described in the attached sketch map reflect the original one-acre plot of land purchased by the Pless family in 1938. It includes both the house and the detached garage.

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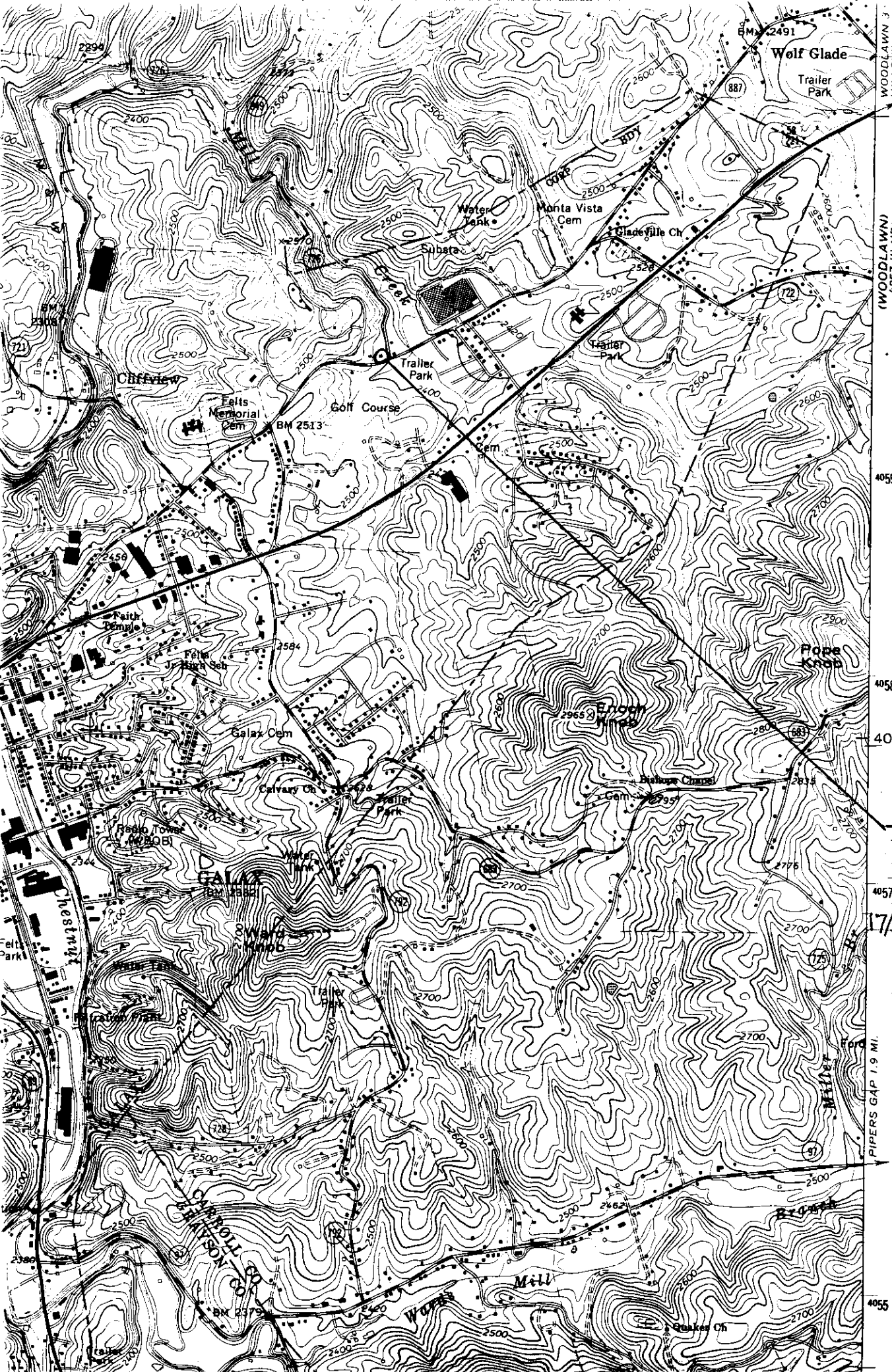
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Site Map of the A.G. Pless, Jr. House



WOODLAWN J HILLSVILLE 10  
 WOODLAWN (WOODLAWN) 4857 III NE  
 4059  
 4058  
 40'  
 4057  
 PIPERS GAP 10 6.1  
 4055

113-5032  
 THE AGRESTE  
 HOUSE  
 142 GLENDAENE RD  
 GALAX, VA  
 7/528800/4595200  
 CANNON  
 CO.

TRI-CITY BLUEPRINT  
 833 GOODE ST  
 BRISTOL, VA 24201  
 540-466-8880

Galax  
 Quad

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**Section   PHOTO   Page   6**

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All photographs are of:

**THE A.G. PLESS, JR. HOUSE  
Galax, Virginia  
VDHR File Number: 113-5032  
Paul Hardin Kapp, photographer**

All negatives are stored with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in their collection.

DATE: May 10, 2001  
VIEW OF: south elevation, looking northeast  
NEG. NO.: 19345  
PHOTO 1 OF 9

DATE: May 10, 2001  
VIEW OF: south elevation, looking northwest  
NEG. NO.: 19345  
PHOTO 2 OF 9

DATE: May 10, 2001  
VIEW OF: front porch, looking north  
NEG. NO.: 19345  
PHOTO 3 OF 9

DATE: May 10, 2001  
VIEW OF: east elevation, looking west  
NEG. NO.: 19345  
PHOTO 4 OF 9

DATE: May 10, 2001  
VIEW OF: north elevation, looking south  
NEG. NO.: 19345  
PHOTO 5 OF 9

DATE: May 10, 2001  
VIEW OF: west elevation, looking east  
NEG. NO.: 19345  
PHOTO 6 OF 9

DATE: May 10, 2001  
VIEW OF: garage, west elevation, looking east  
NEG. NO.: 19345  
PHOTO 7 OF 9

DATE: May 10, 2001  
VIEW OF: living room and mantle, looking east  
NEG. NO.: 19345  
PHOTO 8 OF 9

DATE: May 10, 2001  
VIEW OF: center hall, stair detail  
NEG. NO.: 19345  
PHOTO 9 OF 9