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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* 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.

Listed On:
VLR: 12/11/2014
NRHP: 2/17/2015

**1. Name of Property**

Historic name: Thomas Claiborne Creasy House
Other names/site number: Lavalette House; DHR No. 227-5003
Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

**2. Location**

Street & number: 415 S. Main Street
City or town: Gretna State: VA County: Pittsylvania
Not For Publication: n/a Vicinity: n/a

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

___**national** ___**statewide** X **local**

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___**A** X **B** X **C** ___**D**

Julie V. Langan 12/20/14

**Signature of certifying official/Title:** **Date**

**Virginia Department of Historic Resources**

**State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

**Signature of commenting official:** **Date**

**Title :** **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

## 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private: [X]

Public – Local [ ]

Public – State [ ]

Public – Federal [ ]

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s) [X]

District [ ]

Site [ ]

Structure [ ]

Object [ ]

**Number of Resources within Property**
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|---|---|---|
| 4 | 0 | buildings |
| 1 | 0 | sites |
| 1 | 0 | structures |
| 0 | 0 | objects |
| 6 | 0 | Total |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**
**Historic Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions.)
DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
DOMESTIC: Secondary Dwelling
AGRICULTURAL/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural Outbuilding
FUNERARY: Cemetery

**Current Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions.)
COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant
FUNERARY: Cemetery
AGRICULTURAL/SUBSISTENCE: Storage

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**
(Enter categories from instructions.)
LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate
LATE 19th and 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival,
LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Craftsman

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD: Weatherboard; METAL; BRICK

**Narrative Description**
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

**Summary Paragraph**
The Thomas Claiborne Creasy House is a two-and-a-half-story, three-bay-wide frame dwelling set at the northeast corner of the intersection of U.S. Route 29 (South Main Street) and U.S. Route 40 (East Gretna Road/Vaden Drive) in the Town of Gretna, Pittsylvania County, Virginia. The current appearance of the house, which exhibits influences of the Italianate, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman styles, has evolved over time. The original section of the house is the two-story, frame wing constructed around 1840. In 1880, Creasy purchased the property on which that house sat and added a two-and-a-half-story, three-bay section on the north end of the original structure, integrating the latter as a rear ell. Around 1923, Creasy's heirs added a second two-and-a-half-story section to the front of his addition. The resulting house, however, presents a unified appearance since materials and details were maintained between construction phases. A wraparound porch also helps to visually integrate the various construction phases.

The house is set on a wooded 9.3-acre parcel that also includes the historic garage, stable, and secondary dwelling, as well as the historic well and family cemetery. The 4.1-acre parcel adjacent to the north, consisting of an open field edged by woods, is included in the nominated property since it was historically associated with Creasy's landholdings. The parcel adds to the historical context and setting of the property since it formerly contained the pond and a spring used by the Creasy family. Since 2011, the house has operated as an event site and restaurant. Dining is conducted only on the first floor, while the second floor is maintained in a domestic character. All kitchen preparation and storage spaces are located in the hyphen and rear ell and

do not intrude on the main spaces of the house. The Thomas Claiborne Creasy House retains a high level of integrity that is enhanced by the presence of early-twentieth-century outbuildings and the family cemetery.

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**Narrative Description**

Setting and Location

The Thomas Claiborne Creasy House stands at the northeast corner of the intersection of U.S. Route 29 (South Main Street) and U.S. Route 40 (East Gretna Road/Vaden Drive) and within the boundaries of the Town of Gretna, Pittsylvania County, Virginia. The parcel is heavily wooded and the house sits near the center of the lot. A board fence edges the lot on the south and west sides; railroad tracks run along the east side of the lot beyond a stand of trees. A partially paved driveway leads to the front (north side) of the house where a concrete sidewalk edged with boxwoods extends to the main entrance. An additional gravel parking area is located to the north. A concrete sidewalk also extends from the west side porch towards Main Street. Dense vegetation edges the north, east, and south sides of the parcels.

The historical context of the dwelling is enhanced by the presence of several early-twentieth-century outbuildings built by S.H. and Maud Creasy: the two-story, frame cook's house, a two-level frame stable, and a brick garage. The well located on the west side of the house was present before and during Thomas Claiborne Creasy's residency. The Creasy Family Cemetery, a contributing site, is located on the south end of the property and contains 14 marked graves. The property is enhanced by its surrounding lush vegetation and mature trees.

The nominated property consists of six contributing elements (4 buildings, 1 structure, 1 site) located on two tax parcels totaling 13.4 acres. The northern parcel is referred to by family members as the "fish pond lot" because this lot held the family's ice pond. The spring-fed pond was also stocked with fish and was used for recreation, as well, and was outfitted with a frame spring box in one corner. The pond was removed from the property in the 1950s, but its location is still discernible on the landscape. Other late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century dependencies were also included on the property, but were removed around the 1930s when Stover and Maud Creasy inherited the property.[1]

Main Dwelling - Overview

The house is set on a high brick basement, is clad with weatherboard (reportedly redwood), and is covered by a complex roofline clad with standing seam metal. The wraparound porch features wooden Tuscan columns set on brick piers, turned balusters, and a molded handrail. An enclosed breezeway (hyphen) connects the ca. 1840 section with the 1880s section of the house. A rear, one-story addition to the south end of the ell was completed in 2008. The house's interior reflects the blending of the various construction phases, as well. The resulting plan features a center hall with two rooms to either side, and staircases in both the front and rear of the hall. The second floor holds four rooms to either side of the wide central passage. The interior spaces retain their original wooden floors, plaster walls and ceilings, and much of the fine wood trim. There are eight fireplaces in the house, most of which retain original

mantels, and many original 1920s-era lighting fixtures are present. Another four fireplaces with plain wood mantels are in the rear ell.

Main House – Detailed Description

At present, the Thomas Claiborne Creasy House appears as a two-and-a-half story, three-bay-wide dwelling. The origins of the house, however, are found in the two-story, two-bay-wide section that presently comprises the rear ell. That section, consisting of two rooms over two rooms, is believed to have been built around 1840 and was present on the property when Thomas Claiborne Creasy purchased it in 1880. Creasy added a two-story section to the north end of the existing dwelling, connecting the two sections by an enclosed breezeway or hyphen. Built around 1883, the addition was a typical frame I-house that faced north towards the burgeoning village of Elba (later, Gretna). A historical image of the house shows the similarity between Thomas Creasy's original addition and the house's present appearance. Creasy's two-and-a-half-story addition was covered by a side-facing gable roof with a centrally located gable peak at the front (north side), a columned wraparound porch, and a front balcony (Figure 1). The house was also equipped with the latest amenities, including gas lamps and running water piped in from the nearby well. No information has been located on a possible architect or builder for the Creasy house. In 1860, while he was a merchant in Lynchburg, Thomas Creasy lived in the home of Robert Calhoun Burkholder, who was a well-known builder and architect in that city during the late nineteenth century. It may be that Burkholder assisted Creasy with the design and building of his home and commercial buildings, but this assumption is unsubstantiated.

In 1923, after Creasy's widow's death, daughter Maud and her husband, Stover H. Creasy, added another three-bay, center-hall section to the north of the house, in effect doubling the footprint of the house The addition was executed with similar materials and extended the wraparound porch and replicated the front balcony element on the "new" front.

The dwelling is set on a high basement of red brick laid in common bond pattern and made of hand-made bricks. The house is of wood frame construction clad with weatherboard. The intersecting gables of the roof are clad with standing-seam metal. Fenestration consists of single and paired Craftsman-style windows that consist of an upper sash of four vertical panes with small rectangular panes at the top and a two-pane lower sash. Wooden two-over-two windows are present at the back of the house and on the sleeping porch enclosure (see Figure 1). Doors are generally multi-light types and many retain their original beveled glass panes. The front entrance, located on the north side of the house, features a Craftsman-style, multi-pane door flanked by multi-light sidelights and transom. Although the "seam" between the 1883 and 1923 sections is visible on the exterior siding, overall the house presents a cohesive appearance.

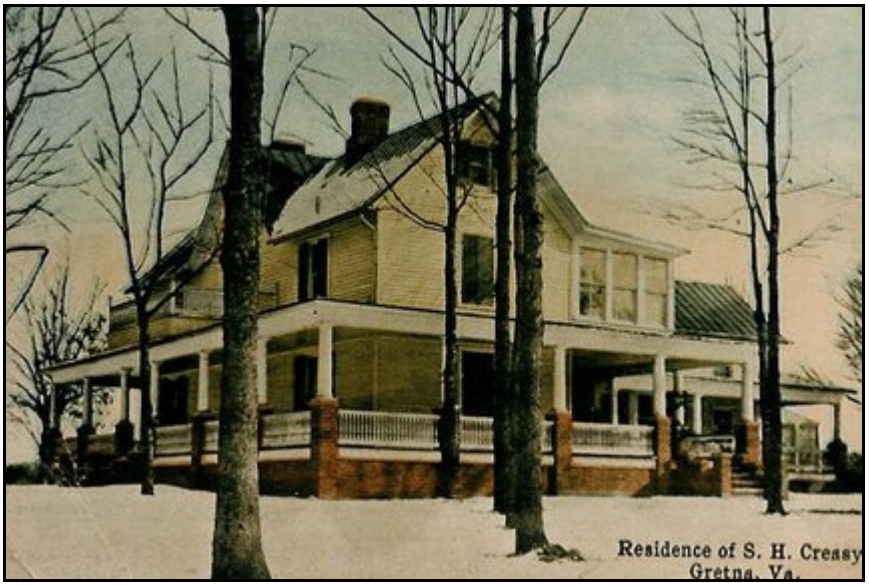


Figure 1. Postcard of the S[tover] H[enry] Creasy House. This image shows the circa 1883 addition that Thomas Creasy built to the two-story dwelling he incorporated as an ell (seen at the right) and predates the 1923 addition added by S.H. and Maud Creasy. Courtesy of Joel Shelton.

Distinctive architectural features on the house include the wide, one-story columned porch that wraps around the north and west sides of the house, the second-floor enclosed sleeping porch on the southwest corner of the house, and the bay window inserted on the west side of the ca. 1840 ell.

The interior also reflects a smooth blending of the various construction phases of the house. The north entrance leads into a center hall, which is flanked to either side by large rooms, each with a fireplace on the exterior wall. The main staircase with a curving handrail and turned balusters is located in the center hall. The room on the east (left) is accessed through an opening that is framed by fluted Ionic columns and pilasters. The room, formerly the library and presently a dining room, retains its original boxed-beamed ceiling and ornate fireplace that features slender fluted columns and a tiled surround. The room to the west is accessed through a pair of multi-paned French doors and also contains a classically inspired fireplace with fluted column supports. Typical finishes include plaster walls and ceilings, wooden baseboards, and heart pine floors.

A cased opening with slender Doric columns marks the center-hall junction of the 1923 and ca. 1883 sections of the house. A second staircase located in the older part of the center hall is less ornate than the front stair and features plain rectangular balusters and a plain handrail that curves down to meet the simple, square newel post at the base of the stairs.

The two rooms that flank the 1880s center hall are connected to the two north rooms, as well. The west room was used as a dining room and retains the original beamed ceiling. The

fireplace mantel in this room is an elaborate wooden piece that features large scrolled consoles at the sides that support a wide frieze with puncheon dentil detailing and a wide overhanging shelf above. The firebox, which features a tiled surround, has been fitted with a modern gas-fired insert. The wooden finishes in this room, including the wide baseboard, are stained a dark color. The east side room, referred to as the "music room" and formerly used as a bedroom, features beaded wainscoting. The fireplace, located on the interior wall, is intact, although the original mantel has been replaced with a mid-twentieth-century brick mantel. This appears to be one of the few alterations made to a character-defining feature in the house.

The second floor of the house has maintained a domestic character with bedrooms and sitting rooms. The floor is accessed by both sets of stairs that lead up to the wide center hall. An enclosed stair on the west side of the hall accesses the large, finished attic spaces above. A door at the south end of the hall leads onto the sleeping porch and east side porch. Front and rear bedrooms with shared baths between them flank the center hall. The bedrooms, like the rooms below, feature plaster ceilings and walls, wooden baseboards, and fireplaces with mantels featuring classically inspired supports and tiled surrounds. The two fireplaces in the front (north) bedrooms have been fitted with cast iron stoves, but the fireplaces in the rear (south) bedrooms retain their open fireboxes. Craftsman-style windows are present in the 1923 rooms (front/north rooms) and two-over-two windows are present in the 1880s rooms (back/south rooms). Beaded wainscoting is present in the southeast (rear) bedroom; this space also holds the partially enclosed stair to the first floor. A trunk room, also called the "sewing room," is located at the north end of the hall. The single large window in the room overlooks a balustraded balcony, which is accessible only by the window.

The rear ell consists of two rooms on each floor. The first floor is taken up by food preparation and storage areas for the restaurant operations, but retains its original finishes of plaster walls and ceilings, and interior wall fireplaces. The second floor also retains its original plaster over wooden lath finishes, as well as the simple wooden fireplace mantels. The second floor domestic space was used as maid's quarters during the early twentieth century.

A one-story ell, constructed in 2008, was purpose built to contain the main cooking and pantry area for the restaurant. The space contains large stainless steel shelving and counters, large cooking grill, and vent hood. A small bathroom is also present at the rear of the ell.

The feeling and character of the house is enhanced by the presence of many family antiques, photographs, and portraits. Many of the original light fixtures (chandeliers and sconces) are extant and modern intrusions have been kept to a minimum. Modern systems (HVAC, electrical and plumbing) have been installed in a sensitive manner and do not detract from the house's integrity.

Secondary Dwelling

The two-story, frame dwelling located southeast of the main house was built during the early 1930s. According to Thomas Claiborne Creasy III, grandson of S.H. and Maud Creasy, his grandfather had this building constructed soon after his grandson was born. The

sensationalized kidnapping of famed aviator Charles Lindbergh's baby son in 1932 concerned S.H. Creasy and led him to have a nanny stay at the house at all hours. The 1930 census lists 19-year-old Elnor Graves (b. 1911) as a black servant in the S.H. Creasy household. In 1940, Della Thompson (b.1890) was a 50-year-old cook who lived with the Creasys. Family members also remember Flora Berger, who was originally from Chatham, and who was the Creasy family cook in the mid-twentieth century. Despite Maud Creasy's purchase of an electric stove, Flora continued to cook on the old wood-burning stove located in the kitchen in the rear ell. She rented a house from the Creasys that was located on the east side of the railroad tracks. Also during the mid-twentieth century, an African-American couple, Bertha and Ned, lived in the cook's house in exchange for doing some light yard work and cooking.[2]

The dwelling, referred to as the "cook's house," faces west towards the main dwelling and the road beyond. The dwelling is set on a poured concrete foundation, is clad with weatherboards, and is covered by a side-facing gable roof of standing-seam metal. The three-bay front holds an off-center entry door that is flanked by six-over-six, wood-sash windows. The entrance is sheltered by a one-bay, gable-roofed porch with a concrete floor and square wooden supports. Other details on the house include a wide overhanging eave, exposed rafter tails, and a centrally located brick chimney. The two-story rear ell holds a shed-roofed porch on the south side and an interior brick chimney at the west end.

The interior holds two rooms below and above and a single room in the ell. An enclosed stair, accessed from the north room, leads to the second floor. The interior finishes include beaded board walls and ceilings, wooden floors, and exposed brick chimneys with stove pipe access holes (presently covered). Doors are wooden four- and five-panel types. At present, the building is unoccupied and used for storage. Fallen trees from recent storms have damaged the roof, but overall, the building retains good integrity.

Stable

The present two-story stable, located southwest of the main dwelling, was built on or near the site of the original (ca. 1883) carriage house. S.H. Creasy removed the older building and built the frame building now standing. The stable is set on a brick foundation, is clad with weatherboards, and is covered by a metal-clad gable roof. Access is from the east and west ends through wide, centrally located openings. A hayloft opening is centrally located on the second story. Rectangular six-pane windows are present on the first and second levels, although several of these openings are boarded over. The interior features a center aisle on the first floor that formerly held stalls at either side and enclosed grain storage at the east end. The second floor is an open hay loft. The stable is somewhat overgrown by vegetation, but is structurally sound and retains good overall integrity.

Garage

The one-story, brick garage, located northeast of the main dwelling, replaced an earlier garage that was located on the north side of the driveway. The present garage, which faces west, is set

on a concrete foundation, is clad with brick veneer, and is covered by a metal-clad hipped roof. Wooden doors access the three bays of the garage from the west side.

One local history states that cars arrived in Elba around 1911.[3] Arthur Creasy, son of S.H. and Maud Creasy, purchased one of the early Studebakers (Figure 2) and his father soon purchased a car, as well. The 1930s-era garage on the property replaced an earlier frame garage located on the north side of the driveway. The garage currently is used for storage and retains good integrity.

Figure 2. In 1913, Arthur Creasy's car was the first in Elba. In this photograph he drives the auto down Elba's unpaved Main Street. The Creasy brick warehouse and store is visible at the right. The water tower and railroad depot have since been demolished. Source: *Pittsylvania County, Virginia—Heritage, 1767-2004*

Cemetery

The Creasy Family Cemetery is located on the south end of the property. The gravesites are arranged in rows with the headstones facing east. The cemetery is not enclosed by a fence or wall, but stands of trees encompass the site on the east, west, and south sides. There are 14 marked graves in the cemetery, many of which have both head and foot stones. Thomas Claiborne Creasy's grave is marked by a tall obelisk set on a high base. All markers appear to be of limestone. Along with the name, birth and death dates of the interred, the grave markers are also enhanced by funerary elements such as urns and inscribed motifs (garlands, handshake motif), decorative moldings, and epitaphs.

The cemetery is well maintained by the family. The most recent interment was Marjorie Creasy Lacy, who died in 2001.

Well

The well is located on the west side of the house. The well was formerly covered by oak boards, but in the early 1950s, it was covered with a concrete cap. A metal pipe with a spigot handle is fitted into the concrete top. At present, the dwelling is supplied with water from the town's system. The well is operative, but at present is not connected to the house's plumbing system.

Inventory

The following is a list of resources located on the parcels associated with the Thomas Claiborne Creasy House. In the following inventory all resources, both primary and secondary, have been considered either contributing or non-contributing based upon the areas of significance identified under Criteria B and C as Architecture, Commerce, Community Planning and Development, and based upon the period of significance identified as circa 1840 to circa 1935.

**415 South Main Street** "Thomas Claiborne Creasy House/Lavalette House" 227-5003

| | |
|---|---|
| *Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2.5, Style: Other, Ca. 1840, Ca. 1883, 1923* | Contributing Total: 1 |
| Secondary Resource: Secondary Dwelling (Building) | Contributing Total: 1 |
| Secondary Resource: Stable (Building) | Contributing Total: 1 |
| Secondary Resource: Garage (Building) | Contributing Total: 1 |
| Secondary Resource: Cemetery (Site) | Contributing Total: 1 |
| Secondary Resource: Well (Structure) | Contributing Total: 1 |

## 8. Statement of Significance

**Applicable National Register Criteria**
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [ ] A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [x] B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [x] C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**
(Mark “x” in all the boxes that apply.)

- [ ] A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- [ ] B. Removed from its original location
- [ ] C. A birthplace or grave
- [ ] D. A cemetery
- [ ] E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- [ ] F. A commemorative property
- [ ] G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

**Areas of Significance**
(Enter categories from instructions.)
ARCHITECTURE
COMMERCE
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

**Period of Significance**
ca. 1840-ca. 1935

**Significant Dates**
ca. 1840
ca. 1883
1923

**Significant Person**
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
Creasy, Thomas Claiborne

**Cultural Affiliation**
N/A

**Architect/Builder**
Unknown

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Thomas Claiborne Creasy House is locally significant under Criterion B for its association with Creasy (1839-1910) due to his contributions in the areas of Commerce and Community Planning and Development, and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The property is associated with the period of Creasy's prominence as a post-bellum and Reconstruction-era merchant and businessman and his active interest in establishing the commercial core of what became the Town of Gretna. In the late-nineteenth century, Creasy purchased property near the burgeoning town of Franklin Junction (later known as Elba, then Gretna) where he operated a mercantile warehouse and owned numerous parcels of land. Creasy's prominence as a merchant, bank president, justice of the peace, and active citizen was attained while he resided in this dwelling, which is among the finest homes in the community. As one of the wealthiest men in town, Creasy and his family also are respected as early philanthropists in Gretna and donated land and money to establish churches and schools in the town. The property retains a very high level of integrity and its context is enhanced by the presence of remaining outbuildings (dating to 1923), as well as the historic downtown to the north. With regard to architecture, the Thomas Claiborne Creasy House is a significant example of a dwelling that features vernacular elements, as well as Italianate-, Colonial Revival-, and Craftsman-style influences. The house evolved from a modest, two-over-two frame dwelling of the mid-nineteenth century, to a larger center-hall house in the late-nineteenth century, and finally to its present appearance in the 1920s. The period of significance begins circa 1840, when the dwelling was first constructed, includes Creasy's ownership starting in 1883 and the addition he built, as well as the second major addition in 1923, and ends circa 1935, when the property achieved its current appearance and all outbuildings were completed.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Thomas Claiborne Creasy (1839-1910)

Thomas Claiborne Creasy was born on October 6, 1839, near Buffalo Creek in Campbell County, Virginia. His parents were George Creasy (d. 1886) and Malinda Arthur. The Creasy family was among the first settlers in Bedford County, Virginia, and two of Thomas Creasy's great-grandfathers served in the colonial military during the American Revolution.[4]

George Creasy was a farmer by trade and owned 600 acres in Campbell County. In 1860, George Creasy's land was valued at $6,000 and his livestock, including sheep, horses, and cattle, was valued at $2,800.[5] Although Thomas Creasy spent his childhood working on his father's farm, he decided to pursue a career as a merchant. He moved to the City of Lynchburg in 1858 and began work "as a salesman in a store in a merchandizing establishment."[6] The 1860 census recorded Creasy as a 22-year-old clerk living in the household of R.C. Burkholder, who was listed as a master builder but who later advertised himself as an architect. In the late nineteenth century,

Burkholder was responsible for the design and construction of many of Lynchburg's fine homes and institutional buildings.[7]

On March 12, 1862, Thomas Creasy enlisted in the Confederate Army and served as a private in Company C of the 11th Virginia Infantry, which was organized in Lynchburg in May 1861. This infantry unit fought primarily with the Army of Northern Virginia from First Manassas through Appomattox. On June 28, 1862, Creasy was taken as a prisoner of war during the Battle of Mechanicsville. He was sent by the Federal forces to Fort Columbus in New York Harbor, then to Fort Delaware where he remained until August 5, 1862, at which time he was returned as part of a prisoner exchange at Aiken's Landing located east of Richmond. Soon after his release, however, Creasy rejoined his military unit. On May 16, 1864, Creasy and his older brother Gustavus Adolphus "Gus" Creasy were wounded at the Battle of Drewry's Bluff and both soldiers were sent to Chimborazo Hospital. Thomas Creasy returned to active duty on June 2 and fought with the 11th Virginia Infantry through the end of the conflict. He was paroled at the Campbell County Court House on June 5, 1865, after taking the oath of allegiance.[8]

Following the war Thomas Creasy returned to his home region in the Lower Piedmont of Virginia. He settled at Grove Hill in Pittsylvania County, located southeast of present day Gretna. Creasy operated a store at this small crossroads and remained there until 1884. Creasy's brother, Gus (1840-1915), also moved to Pittsylvania County and followed his father into farming. Gus Creasy purchased a 500-acre farm at Mount Airy where he and his wife, Sallie Claiborne Tucker, raised a large family that included 13 children.[9]

On May 26, 1880, Thomas Claiborne Creasy married Eliza Lavalette Elliott of Charlotte County. The couple had two children: Maud Elliott Creasy (1881-1971) and Arthur E. Creasy (1882-1912). About this time, Creasy purchased from Daniel Hoskins a 13-acre parcel located at the edge of the burgeoning town of Franklin Junction (later Elba, and then Gretna). This parcel was part of a 15.25-acre tract that Hoskins received in 1873 from his parents, Harrison and Nancy Hoskins, and was part of the 268-acre tract conveyed to Nancy Harrison [Hoskins] and her siblings by Lynch Dillard in 1849. The latter deed indicates that Nancy Harrison's mother was then living on the property and may reference the two-story dwelling that was standing on the property when Creasy purchased it. Creasy built onto the existing house and his younger brother, Robert H., purportedly supervised the construction.[10] Creasy may have called on his builder and architect friend R.C. Burkholder in Lynchburg to design the addition, but no historical records have been found to support this assumption. Burkholder was very active during the 1880s and may have provided the Italianate details seen on the Creasy house and some of the interior woodwork. Burkholder also may have been the builder for Creasy's brick warehouse, which also was built in the early 1880s.

Creasy's Prominence in Gretna

The origins of the Town of Gretna can be traced back to the mid-nineteenth century and the period of the American Civil War. Local legend holds that at that time, Edward N. Dillard deeded to Jeremiah Talbott 408 acres of land as payment for Talbott's service as a substitute for Dillard in the Confederate Army. This land later became the area on which Gretna was founded.

Talbott returned from the war, built a dwelling on his land—the first in the area that became Gretna—and in 1872, deeded to the Lynchburg and Danville Railroad an 80-foot-wide right-of-way running north-to-south through his property. About the time that the Lynchburg and Danville line was completed in 1874, the Franklin & Pittsylvania Railroad (F&P) began construction of an east-to-west line that connected the two counties and hauled ore and minerals from the mines at Pittsville (west of Gretna). In 1879, a depot was built at the junction of the two rail lines, which led to the area being named "The Junction" and later "Franklin Junction." Once the line was completed to Rocky Mount, it also hauled lumber, fertilizer, and tobacco.[11]

In the late-nineteenth century, Thomas Creasy and his brother Robert became partners in many business interests in Franklin Junction (Figure 3). By 1881, Creasy had built his brick warehouse on the east side of Main Street (DHR No. 227-5002-0017). The building abutted the railroad right-of-way on the east (rear) where stairs and ramps facilitated the movement of goods to and from the train and warehouse (Figure 4). In addition to groceries and dry goods, the store sold furniture from the second floor, and a milliner operated in the building. The Creasy family operated a store from this building until 1920 when the store was moved to another building on the east side of Main Street (DHR No. 227-5002-0007). The brick warehouse, presently occupied by the Gretna Little Theatre, is the oldest extant building in the Gretna Commercial Historic District (NRHP 2013; DHR No. 227-5002). The warehouse stayed in the Creasy family until 1945 when Maud and S.H. Creasy sold it to W.B. Watlington, who operated his "City Market" in the building.[12]

Figure 3. Portrait and signature of Thomas Claiborne Creasy as they appear in Tyler's *Men of Mark in Virginia* (1907).

Figure 4. The brick warehouse built by Thomas Claiborne Creasy. The building, located at 101 South Main Street, is the oldest extant building in the Gretna Commercial Historic District (227-5002). Source: Tyler, *The Junction*.

Throughout the 1880s and 1890s, Thomas Creasy was very active in real estate dealings and in establishing institutions that would enhance the economic opportunities in Franklin Junction, as well as enhancing the quality of life of its citizens. Creasy understood the importance of rail transportation to local merchants and farmers and, in 1880, he and his brother Gus served on the board of directors for the Halifax-Pittsylvania Railroad, which connected to the larger Richmond & Danville line. In 1890, Creasy deeded land to the Virginia Midland Railroad Company to build a turntable at Franklin Junction. The original Hotel Elba, constructed around 1872 on land owned by Creasy, served the crew and passengers who traveled on the railroad.[13] Completion of the F&P brought additional growth to the area and in 1879, a post office was established in the town, which necessitated a change in name. The name was changed to Elba to avoid confusion with an existing "Franklin" post office. Thomas Creasy served as Elba postmaster from 1898 through 1910. The family retains letters written between Creasy and one of the mail carriers that illustrate Creasy's insistence on prompt delivery.[14] Creasy also served as Justice of the Peace from 1872 to 1884. In 1909, Creasy served as one of the directors of the Elba Warehouse Co. Inc., and sold the company land to build the first tobacco warehouse in town. Although Creasy retired from his mercantile business around 1900, he continued to fill numerous positions including president of the Bank of Elba, treasurer of Anderson Masonic Lodge No. 258, and Mayor of Elba from 1903 to 1910. Creasy was also one of the first in town to adopt the use of a telephone in his home and office. In the late-nineteenth century, E.B. Fitzgerald began operating the new communications system and by the turn of the twentieth century, Creasy connected the system to his home, his store, and his brother's house in Mount Airy. Creasy served as president and later as secretary/treasurer of the Elba Telephone Company.

One source states that in 1900, Thomas Claiborne Creasy owned more land in Elba than anyone since the town founder Jeremiah Talbott.[15] In fact, Creasy purchased most of the original holdings of Talbott and by the time he made his will in 1897, he owned over 100 acres in town, which extended on both the east and west sides of the railroad line. He also owned numerous other parcels in the county that he operated as rental property. From his wealth, Creasy was able

to give generously and in 1892, he donated land for the first Gretna School for white children and in 1901 he donated the Main Street lot on which the Masonic Lodge was built. Also in 1892, Creasy and Elizabeth Worley donated land to the Elba Missionary Baptist Church; his daughter Maud later donated additional land to the church. In 1904, Creasy sold two acres located northeast of the depot to the trustees of the Pittsylvania Industrial Academy, which was a school for African American students. In 1908, Creasy donated the Main Street lot on which the Bank of Elba was established and in 1921, Maud and S.H. Creasy donated an additional lot behind the bank building.[16]

Thomas Claiborne Creasy died on February 20, 1910, following "an illness of short duration from pneumonia" (Figure 5).[17] He was buried at his home in a shaded area on the south end of the

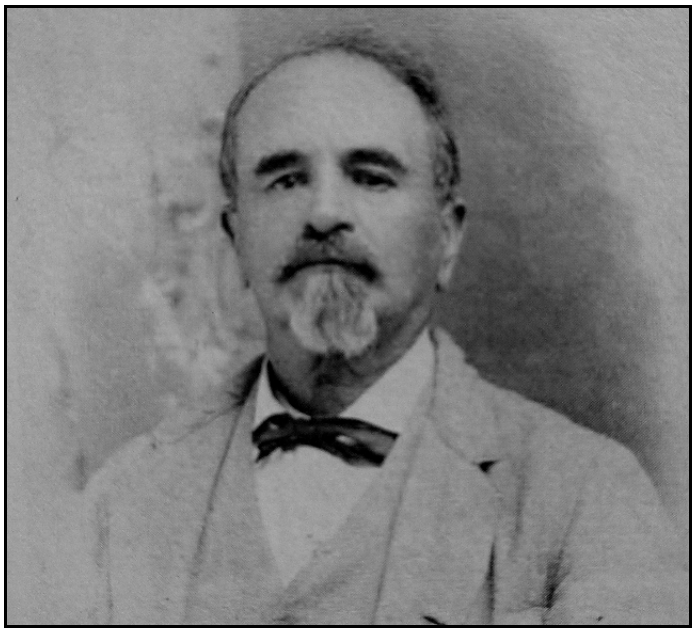

Figure 5. Portrait of Thomas Claiborne Creasy from Tyler, *The Junction*.

property. His will, which was probated on March 21, 1910, devised all his "lands, lots, and houses located on the west side of the railroad to his daughter Maud, which included about 50 acres and Creasy's dwelling, orchards, and gardens, as well as a 173-acre parcel on both sides of the Henry Road located two or three miles west of Elba. To his son Arthur, Creasy left all his "lands, lots, and houses" on the east side of the railroad and another 75 acres on Georges Creek located about one-quarter mile northeast of Elba. The two siblings were designated as co-owners of the Creasy brick warehouse. Stocks, bonds, and other property were to be equally divided between the two. Although Creasy's widow Eliza retained a life estate in her husband's holdings, she relinquished ownership to her son and daughter in December 1910. The unmarried Arthur died in 1912 and Eliza Creasy died in 1913. At that time, Maud and her husband, Stover Henry Creasy, inherited all of Thomas Creasy's estate.[18]

Later Creasy Family Owners

According to her grandson, Thomas Claiborne Creasy, Jr., Maud Creasy was a shy and sheltered child. Her father was aware of this and knew that she would inherit a large portion of his estate. Hoping to shelter Maud, and protect her inheritance, Thomas Creasy asked his brother Gus to have one of his sons court Maud. Gus agreed and Stover Henry began to court his cousin.[19] The two apparently were very much in love and were married on Christmas Day 1905. S.H. Creasy attended the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and had conducted business with and for his father-in-law in the years before Thomas Creasy's death. S.H. Creasy managed many of Thomas Creasy's rental properties, and headed up the tobacco warehouse business.

Maud and S.H. Creasy had six children, five of whom reached adulthood: Thomas Claiborne Creasy III (1907-1971), Lavalette Elliott Creasy (1910-1997), Stover Henry Creasy, Jr. (1914-1982), Cecil Arthur Creasy (1918-1970), and Marjorie Creasy Lacy (1923-2001). As their family grew, they added onto the Creasy home. Around 1923, Stover Henry supervised the addition of the front (north) section of the house. The addition was similar in materials and style to the existing home, but also incorporated details that were influenced by the popular Colonial Revival and Craftsman styles.

Once Maud inherited the full extent of Thomas Creasy's estate, she and her husband continued to manage rental properties, but sold various lots in the downtown area, including most of the lots on the west side of South Main Street (from about Creasy Street north to Henry Street). S.H. Creasy also invested in new businesses in town. In the 1920s, he leased a building on the east side of South Main Street to the Texaco Corporation for a new filling station. Creasy later sold the building to Jack Pickral, who operated a café in the building (DHR No. 227-5002-0005). In 1939, S.H. and Maud Creasy also constructed a restaurant at the southeast corner of the intersection of U.S. Route 40 and Main Street (U.S. Route 29) for their son Claiborne. Claiborne managed the restaurant for about 10 years, then sold it. He also leased the gasoline service station attached to the property to ESSO. The Cross Roads restaurant is a Gretna mainstay, although it has since moved further south down Main Street to another location. During this time, Maud Creasy also continued her father's philanthropy through land and financial donations and in 1950, she donated the land for the Anderson Memorial Methodist Church and Parsonage (on School Street).[20]

Stover Henry died in 1951 and Maud died in 1971. She left the home place, which extended to the present site of the First National Bank building, to her daughter Lavalette Elliott Creasy, as well as the parcel on the west side of Main Street between U.S. Route 40 and School Street (now The Junction at Gretna II shopping center). Maud also devised parcels to her other surviving children. At her death in 1997, Lavalette left the house and land to her sister Marjorie Creasy Lacy (known as "Bubbles"). At Marjorie's death in 2001, she left the majority of her real estate to her nephew Cecil A. Creasy, Jr. A portion of the estate was also left to Lavalette Jennings Lacy.

Stover Henry, Maud, Lavalette, and Marjorie were buried in the family cemetery at the Creasy house site. At present, the family cemetery holds 13 marked grave sites. The most recent interment was Marjorie Creasy Lacy.

Architectural Discussion

The Thomas Claiborne Creasy House, while not highly ornate, represents the transition from mid-nineteenth-century, rural, vernacular architecture to early-twentieth-century domestic architecture that was influenced by nationally-popular styles. Such details may have been gleaned from pattern books or popular magazines, or provided by a trained local craftsman or architect. The form of the house retains a vernacular feeling due to the use of the center-hall plan and flanking rooms. The additions made to the Creasy house over time have been visually and physically incorporated into a cohesive dwelling that has provided the family a home for over a century. The Creasy House is one of the finest in the Town of Gretna and today houses a formal dining establishment on the first floor.

The architectural resources associated with the Thomas Claiborne Creasy property represent both vernacular and high-style influences in form and details. The main dwelling is the most highly detailed resource and historical photographs indicate that it has retained a high level of integrity over the years. The original section of the dwelling, now incorporated as the rear ell, is a vernacular building dating to the mid-nineteenth century, and may be the dwelling in which Nancy Harrison lived in 1849, which is referenced in a deed of conveyance. The two-over-two floor plan is characteristic of rural dwellings of the period; other notable elements on this section of the building include the large central brick chimney, the interior plaster over wood lath walls and ceilings, and plain wooden mantels. The first floor of this section later held the family kitchen and pantry and today serves as the kitchen and office for the restaurant operations.

The addition constructed for Thomas Claiborne Creasy around 1883 was not ostentatious. Though Creasy was becoming a wealthy man at the time, he did not want a house that was extravagant.[21] He chose to expand the house with a two-and-a-half-story, three-bay addition, which was a common vernacular form (I-house) executed in common materials (wood, brick, metal). The center-hall house was clad with weatherboards and the roof with wooden shake shingles. The wood sash windows had two-over-two panes, and large brick chimneys extended from the side-gable roof ridgeline. Sawn brackets detailed the wide overhang of the eave and wraparound porch. Creasy's new house was connected to the older section by another common vernacular element—an enclosed breezeway or hyphen. The interior of Creasy's house exhibited modest, but elegant, details including beaded wainscoting, wide baseboards and window surrounds, a simple but graceful staircase in the center hall, and ornate mantels in the parlors. The mantel in the west side parlor (now the back dining room) exhibits scrolled consoles, a puncheon dentil molding, and a wide shelf.

Around 1923 when Stover Henry and Maud Creasy increased the size of the house, they did so in a sympathetic manner. Adding what in essence is a second I-house to the north end of the dwelling, they doubled the size of the interior space. The addition is covered by a central, front-facing gable roof with low sloped shed roofs to either side. The porch was extended around the

north and west sides of the house, which help to visually unify the two sections. The house's appearance is further unified by the use of similar materials and details. Where the "new" section differs, however, is in the use of more classically inspired elements, such as columns, and Craftsman-style details such as the unusual window pane configuration and entrance door. On the interior, the Creasys continued the center-hall plan and the use of elegant moldings and baseboards, but also included beamed ceilings and mantels with colonettes. Classical columns were also used at the openings to the library, where Ionic columns flank the opening, and at the junction of the two center halls, where attenuated Doric columns stand. Bathrooms and closets were added in the space between the front and back bedrooms on the second floor.

The current owner inherited the property in 2007 and at that time undertook a sensitive restoration of the house. A new standing-seam metal roof was installed and new mechanical systems (HVAC, electrical, plumbing) were installed, but overall the original elements to the house remained intact. An additional bathroom was added beneath the back staircase and a one-story, gable-roofed addition was added to the south end of the ell. These additions have not altered the overall character or feeling of the house. The owner hosted special events (e.g., weddings) at the house, but always planned to have a restaurant lease the building. Diners have compared the atmosphere of the restaurant to dining at "grandmother's house" and many note the quaint feeling of the home, perhaps attesting to the historical integrity of the house. The atmosphere seems to recall the "massive meals" that Maud Creasy's grandson remembers at her home.[22]

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Bell, Robert T. *11th Virginia Infantry*. Lynchburg, VA: H.E. Howard, Inc., 1985.

Chambers, S. Allen Jr. *Lynchburg: An Architectural History*. Charlottesville, VA: University Press of Virginia, 1981.

Crane, John. "Experienced Chef to Open Restaurant in Historic Gretna Home." 04 December 2011. Accessed 29 August 2014 at WSLS web site, http://www.wsls.com/story/20856839/experienced-chef-to-open-restaurant-in-historic-gretna-home.

Creasy, Cecil A., Jr. Interview with Debra McClane, 09 July 2014, in Gretna, Virginia.

Creasy, Thomas Claiborne IV. Telephone interview with Debra McClane, 04 August 2014.

Markham, Jerald H. *11th Virginia Infantry: A Regimental History. Volume 1—The Roster*. Athens, GA: New Papyrus Publishing, 2011.

Tyler, Estelle Ironmonger. *The Junction—Elba—Gretna, Virginia*. Gretna, VA: By author, 1990.

Tyler, Lyon G. *Men of Mark in Virginia: Ideals of American Life, A Collection of Biographies of the Leading Men in the State.* Volume III. Washington, D.C.: Men of Mark Publishing, 1907.

Pittsylvania County Deed Books and Will Books (1880-1910). Accessed on microfilm at the Library of Virginia, Richmond.

*Pittsylvania County, Virginia—Heritage, 1767-2004*. Volume 1. [Danville, VA]: Pittsylvania County Heritage Book Committee and County Heritage, Inc., 2004.

U.S. Census Bureau. Population Schedule, Agricultural Schedule, Campbell County, Virginia 1860

U.S. Census Bureau. Population Schedule, Pittsylvania County, 1880, 1900, 1910.

Wells, John E. and Robert E. Dalton. *The Virginia Architects, 1835-1955: A Biographical Dictionary.* Richmond, VA: The New South Architectural Press, 1997.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
____ previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

**Primary location of additional data:**
_X_ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** DHR File No. 227-5003

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 13.4 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 36.966389 Longitude: 79.361578
2. Latitude: 36.950011 Longitude: 79.360611
3. Latitude: 36.946744 Longitude: 79.360308
4. Latitude: 36.947314 Longitude: 79.362622

**Or**
**UTM References**
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: Easting: Northing:

2. Zone: Easting: Northing:

3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The nominated property encompasses the two tax parcels (2530-15-2704 and 2530-16-2259 ) totaling 13.4 acres, as noted on the Pittsylvania County tax parcel maps, which are held in the Office of the Commissioner of the Revenue at 11 North Main Street, Chatham, Virginia. A copy of the pertinent tax map, entitled *Location Map*, is included with this nomination for further reference, and is taken from Property Map of Pittsylvania County Virginia 2530.2.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The property boundaries encompass two parcels that were part of the original landholdings of Thomas Claiborne Creasy and that are still associated with the Creasy house. Other parcels have been sold from the original landholdings. These parcels retain the original homesite and the locations of the associated outbuildings, structures, and sites.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Debra A. McClane, Architectural Historian
organization: Debra A. McClane, Architectural Historian
street & number: 4711 Devonshire Road
city or town: Richmond state: VA zip code: 23225
e-mail: dmcclane1@verizon.net
telephone: 804/233-3890
date: 09/12/2014

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Thomas Claiborne Creasy House
City or Vicinity: Town of Gretna
County: Pittsylvania State: VA
Photographer: Debra A. McClane
Date Photographed: July 09, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 23 VA_PittsylvaniaCounty_ThomasClaiborneCreasyHouse_0001
View: Front (north) elevation of house

Photo 2 of 23 VA_PittsylvaniaCounty_ThomasClaiborneCreasyHouse_0002
View: West side elevation of house

Photo 3 of 23 VA_PittsylvaniaCounty_ThomasClaiborneCreasyHouse_0003
View: East side elevation of house

Photo 4 of 23 VA_PittsylvaniaCounty_ThomasClaiborneCreasyHouse_0004
View: Rear (south) elevation of house

Photo 5 of 23 VA_PittsylvaniaCounty_ThomasClaiborneCreasyHouse_0005
View: Detail of front entrance to house

Photo 6 of 23 VA_PittsylvaniaCounty_ThomasClaiborneCreasyHouse_0006
View: Detail of Craftsman-style windows on front (north) of house

Photo 7 of 23 VA_PittsylvaniaCounty_ThomasClaiborneCreasyHouse_0007
View: Columns marking the juncture of the 1923 part of the dwelling (front) and the 1880s section of the dwelling (back)

Photo 8 of 23 VA_PittsylvaniaCounty_ThomasClaiborneCreasyHouse_0008

View: View looking east from center hall into library

Photo 9 of 23 VA_PittsylvaniaCounty_ThomasClaiborneCreasyHouse_0009
View: View looking west from center hall into front west parlor

Photo 10 of 23 VA_PittsylvaniaCounty_ThomasClaiborneCreasyHouse_0010
View: Front center hall stair (1923), view looking south

Photo 11 of 23 VA_PittsylvaniaCounty_ThomasClaiborneCreasyHouse_0011
View: Rear center hall stair (ca. 1883), view looking southeast

Photo 12 of 23 VA_PittsylvaniaCounty_ThomasClaiborneCreasyHouse_0012
View: View looking east at library (front east parlor); note boxed beam ceiling and portrait of Stover Henry Creasy, Jr. above fireplace.

Photo 13 of 23 VA_PittsylvaniaCounty_ThomasClaiborneCreasyHouse_0013
View: View looking southwest through front west parlor; portrait of Lavalette Elliott Creasy above fireplace.

Photo 14 of 23 VA_PittsylvaniaCounty_ThomasClaiborneCreasyHouse_0014
View: View looking southeast in rear dining room

Photo 15 of 23 VA_PittsylvaniaCounty_ThomasClaiborneCreasyHouse_0015
View: Detail of fireplace mantel in rear dining room

Photo 16 of 23 VA_PittsylvaniaCounty_ThomasClaiborneCreasyHouse_0016
View: Second floor center hall showing both stairs at left and door to sleeping porch at back

Photo 17 of 23 VA_PittsylvaniaCounty_ThomasClaiborneCreasyHouse_0017
View: Second floor, front west room looking west

Photo 18 of 23 VA_PittsylvaniaCounty_ThomasClaiborneCreasyHouse_0018
View: Second floor, view looking south in rear back bedroom

Photo 19 of 23 VA_PittsylvaniaCounty_ThomasClaiborneCreasyHouse_0019
View: Detail of fireplace in ca. 1840 wing, second floor, rear (south) room

Photo 20 of 23 VA_PittsylvaniaCounty_ThomasClaiborneCreasyHouse_0020
View: Secondary dwelling (cook's house), view looking northeast; garage in background

Photo 21 of 23 VA_PittsylvaniaCounty_ThomasClaiborneCreasyHouse_0021

| | |
|---|---|
| View: | Creasy Family Cemetery, view looking southwest; tall obelisk on base near center of photograph marks the grave of Thomas Claiborne Creasy |
| Photo 22 of 23 | VA_PittsylvaniaCounty_ThomasClaiborneCreasyHouse_0022 |
| View: | Garage, view looking east |
| Photo 23 of 23 | VA_PittsylvaniaCounty_ThomasClaiborneCreasyHouse_0023 |
| View: | Stable, view to southeast |

## Index of Figures

1. Postcard of the S[tover] H[enry] Creasy House. Courtesy of Joel Shelton.

2. Arthur Creasy and his car on Main Street, Elba, Virginia. Source: *Pittsylvania County, Virginia—Heritage, 1767-2004.*

3. Portrait and signature of Thomas Claiborne Creasy as they appear in Tyler's *Men of Mark in Virginia* (1907).

4. Thomas Claiborne Creasy's brick warehouse located at 101 South Main Street, Gretna. Source: Tyler, *The Junction*.

5. Portrait of Thomas Claiborne Creasy from Tyler, *The Junction*.

**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.460 et seq.).
**Estimated Burden Statement**: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

ENDNOTES
(Section 7)
1. Estelle Ironmonger Tyler, *The Junction—Elba—Gretna, Virginia* (Gretna, VA: By author, 1990), 34; Cecil A. Creasy, Jr., Personal Communication, Telephone interview with Debra A. McClane, 05 September 2014.

2. Thomas Claiborne Creasy, Jr., Personal Communication, 04 August 2014 (N.B. Mr. Creasy is in fact the third Creasy to bear the name "Thomas Claiborne"; however, when he was born, his father [also Thomas Claiborne Creasy] named him Thomas Claiborne Creasy, Jr., rather than "III."); Cecil A. Creasy, Jr., Personal Communication, Electronic Mail Message, 08 September 2014; U.S. Census, Population Schedule, Pittsylvania County, 1930, 1940.

(Section 8)
3. Tyler, *The Junction*, 34.

4. Lyon G. Tyler, *Men of Mark in Virginia: Ideals of American Life, A Collection of Biographies of the Leading Men in the State,* Volume III (Washington, D.C.: Men of Mark Publishing, 1907).

5. U.S. Census Bureau, Agricultural Schedule, Campbell County, 1860. George Creasy is listed in the Eastern District of Campbell County, entry no. 16, pages 11-12.

6. Tyler, *Men of Mark*.

7. The present owner, Cecil A. Creasy, Jr., states that he recalls his father and grandfather saying that an architect from Lynchburg had been responsible for the construction of the Thomas Claiborne Creasy house and feels that Burkholder may have been the architect. Thomas Claiborne Creasy, Jr., also stated that he believes that Burkholder was the architect and recalls hearing his name from his grandfather (Stover Henry Creasy, Sr.). Cecil Creasy also states that Robert H. Creasy was the "builder and contractor" for Thomas C. Creasy's house. Cecil A. Creasy, Jr., Personal Communication, Telephone interview with Debra A. McClane, 05 September 2014. Thomas Claiborne Creasy Jr., Personal Communication, Telephone interview with Debra A. McClane 08 September 2014.
John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, *The Virginia Architects, 1835-1955: A Biographical Dictionary* (Richmond, VA: The New South Architectural Press, 1997); S. Allen Chambers, Jr., *Lynchburg: An Architectural History* (Charlottesville, VA: University Press of Virginia, 1981. Chambers notes that Burkholder advertised himself as a carpenter, but also as an architect who was apprenticed and traveled to New York City and other prominent northeastern cities for training. Chambers notes that during the postwar era, Burkholder was "from all accounts, the architect most responsible for the directions taken by the city's [Lynchburg's] domestic architecture during the decade [1880-1890]" (page 287). Chambers also notes that Burkholder was well known for his woodwork and at the Stabler House "Burkholder was also presumably responsible for installing several new mantels" (page 186).

8. Robert T. Bell, *11th Virginia Infantry* (Lynchburg, VA: H.E. Howard, Inc., 1985), see roster page 71; Jerald H. Markham, *11th Virginia Infantry: A Regimental History. Volume 1—The Roster*. (Athens, GA: New Papyrus Publishing, 2011), 138; Compiled Service Records, "T.C. Creasy." The prisoner of war records included in the latter lists Creasy as age 24, height 5 feet 7 inches, hair dark, eyes black, complexion sallow.

9. Cecil Arthur Creasy, Jr., "Gustavus Augustus Creasy" in *Pittsylvania County, Virginia—Heritage, 1767-2004*. Volume 1 ([Danville, VA]: Pittsylvania County Heritage Book Committee and County Heritage, Inc., 2004), 147-148.

10. Tyler, *The Junction*, 33; Pittsylvania County Deed Book [PCDB] 52:1 (1849); PCDB 61:98 (1864) quit claim; PCDB 66:5 (1873); PCDB 76:28 (1880). The latter two deeds reference both the railroad tracks adjacent to the property, as well as the spring located north of the house site.

11. National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, Gretna Commercial Historic District, 07 December 2012. Copy on file at Archives, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond; Tyler, *The Junction*, 8; Herman Melton, *Picks, Tracks and Bateaux: Industry in Pittsylvania County, 1780-1950* (Chatham, VA: H.E. Howard, Inc., 1993); Dell Midkiff Tyler, "The Old F&P Railroad" in *Pittsylvania County, Virginia—Heritage, 1767-2004*. Volume 1. ([Danville, VA]: Pittsylvania County Heritage Book Committee and County Heritage, Inc., 2004), 48.

12. Tyler, *The Junction*, 31-32, 35.

13. Tyler, *The Junction*, 8, 37.

14. Cecil Arthur Creasy, Jr., Personal Communication, 09 July 2014.

15. Cecil Arthur Creasy, Jr., Personal Communication, 09 July 2014; Tyler, *The Junction*, 31.

16. Tyler, *The Junction*, 30.

17. *The News* [Lynchburg, VA], "Thomas C. Creasy Dead: Was Prominent Citizen of Pittsylvania" 23 February 1910.

18. Pittsylvania County Will Book 5:93 (will probated on March 21, 1910); Cecil Arthur Creasy, Jr., Personal Communication, 09 July 2014; Tyler, *The Junction*, 31, 145-146.

19. Thomas Claiborne Creasy, Jr., Personal Communication, 04 August 2014.

20. Tyler, *The Junction*, 31; *Pittsylvania County, Virginia—Heritage, 1767-2004*. Volume 1 ([Danville, VA]: Pittsylvania County Heritage Book Committee and County Heritage, Inc., 2004), 13.

21. Cecil Arthur Creasy, Jr., Personal Communication, 09 July 2014.

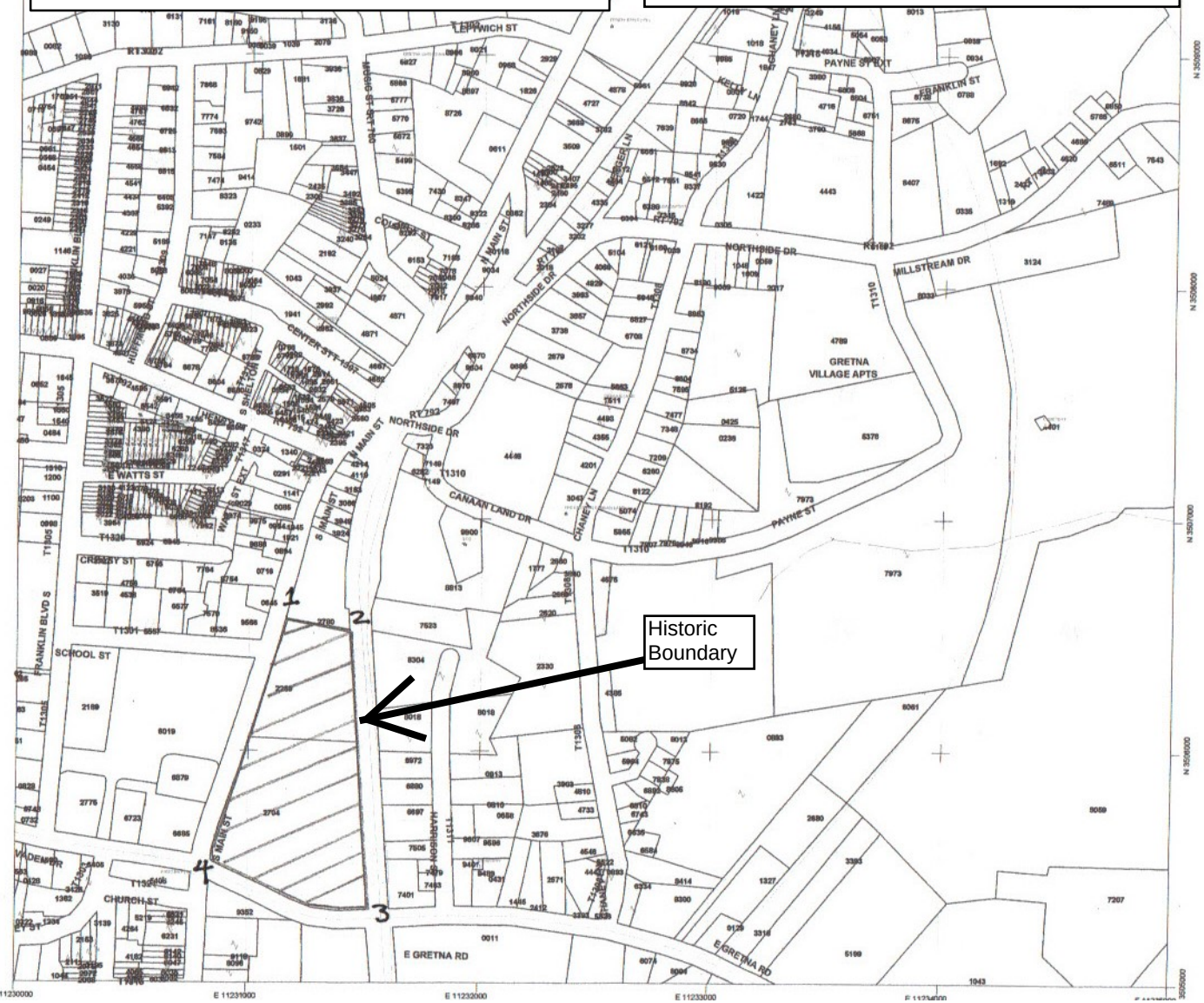
22. John Crane, "Experienced Chef to Open Restaurant in Historic Gretna Home," 2011; Thomas Claiborne Creasy, Jr., Personal Communication, 04 August 2014.

Thomas Claiborne Creasy House, 415 South Main Street, Gretna, VA, #227-5003

DATUM WGS84

1. Lat: 36º 57’ 00.59”N Long: 79º 21’ 41.68”W
2. Lat: 36º 57’ 00.04”N Long: 79º 21’ 38.20”W
3. Lat: 36º 56’ 48.29”N Long: 79º 21’ 37.11”W
4. Lat: 36º 56’ 50.33”N Long: 79º 21’ 45.44”W

**Location Map**
**Thomas Claiborne Creasy House**
**Town of Gretna, Pittsylvania County, VA**
**DHR No. 227-5003**




PROPERTY MAP

OF

PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY

VIRGINIA

2530.2

Scale : 1 Inch = 200 Feet

Pittsylvania County GIS
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Printed On: 10/22/2013

Nominated property

**Sketch Site Plan**

Resource Name: Thomas Claiborne Creasy House/Lavalette House
VDHR #227-5003
Location: 415 S. Main Street, Gretna
NTS
07/2014

All resources shown on the map contribute to the property.

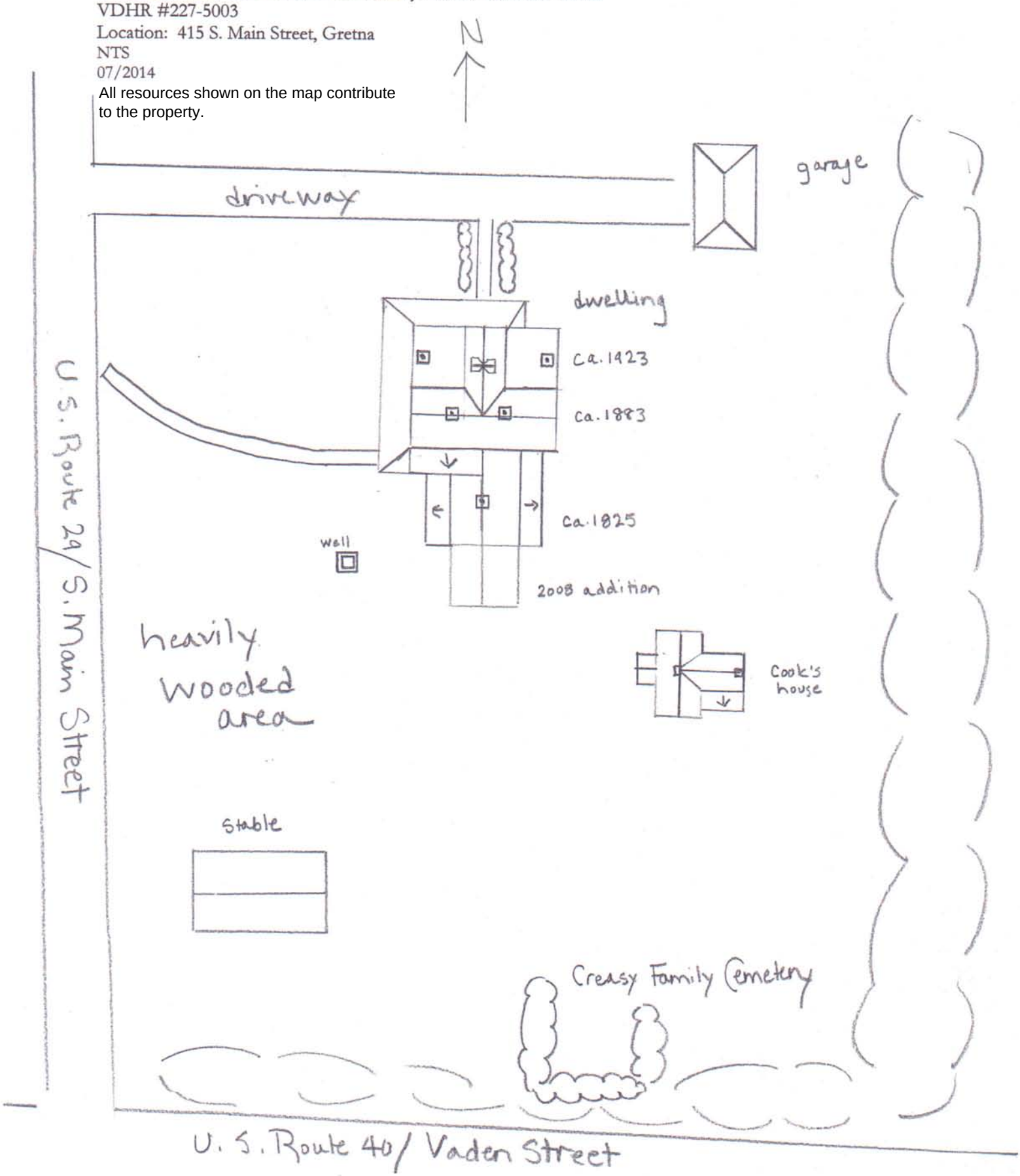

Photo Key 1 of 3

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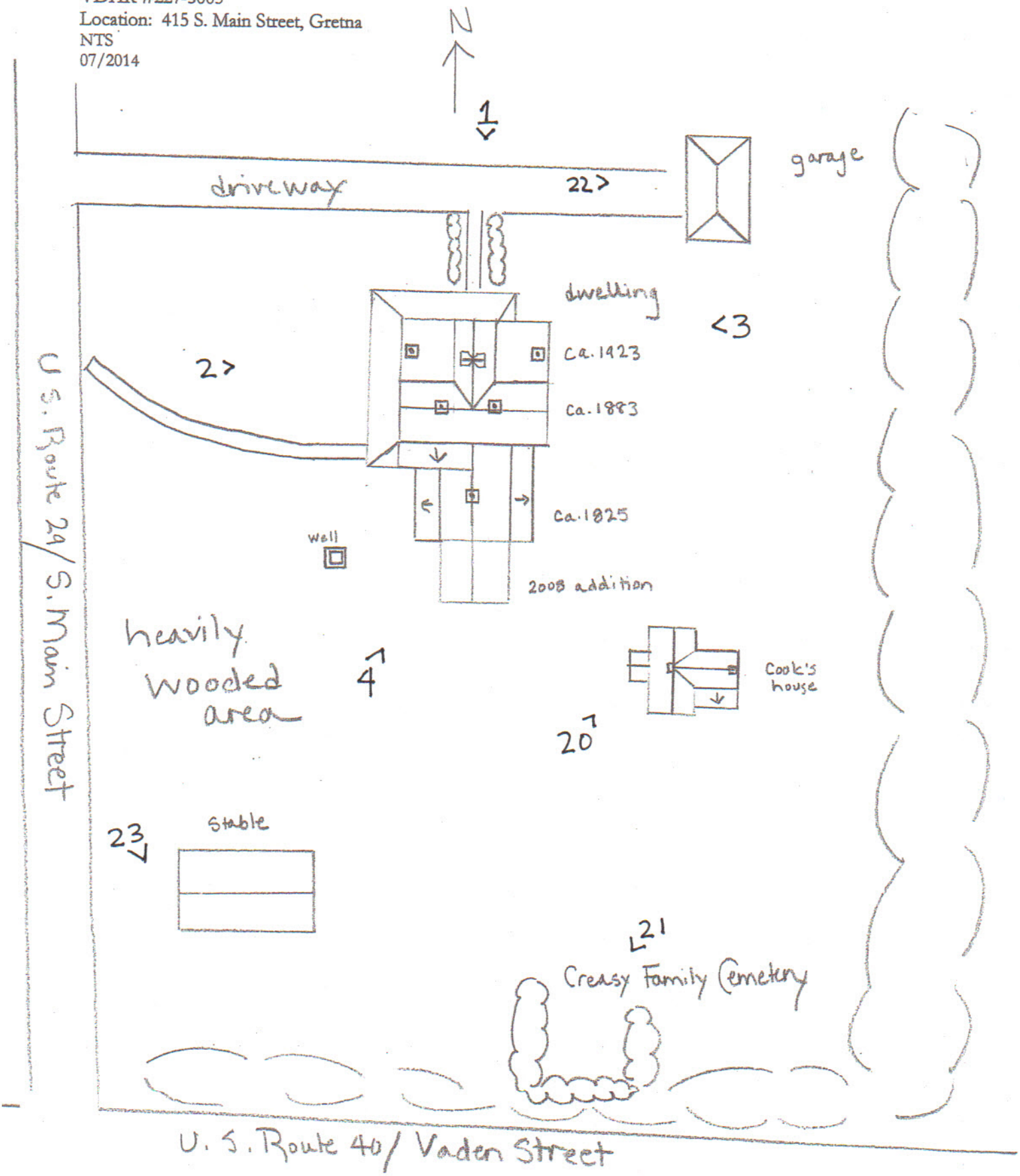
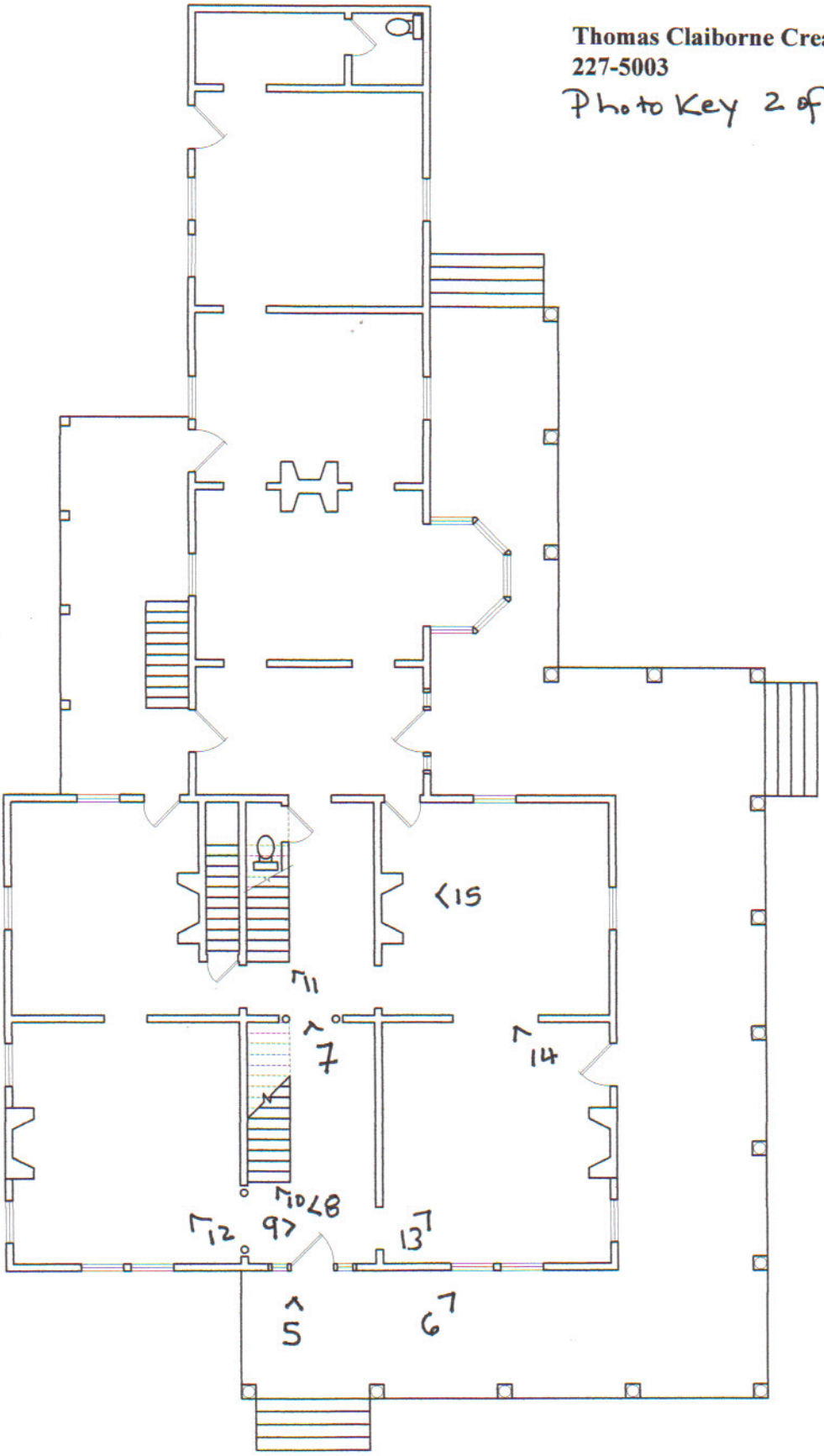
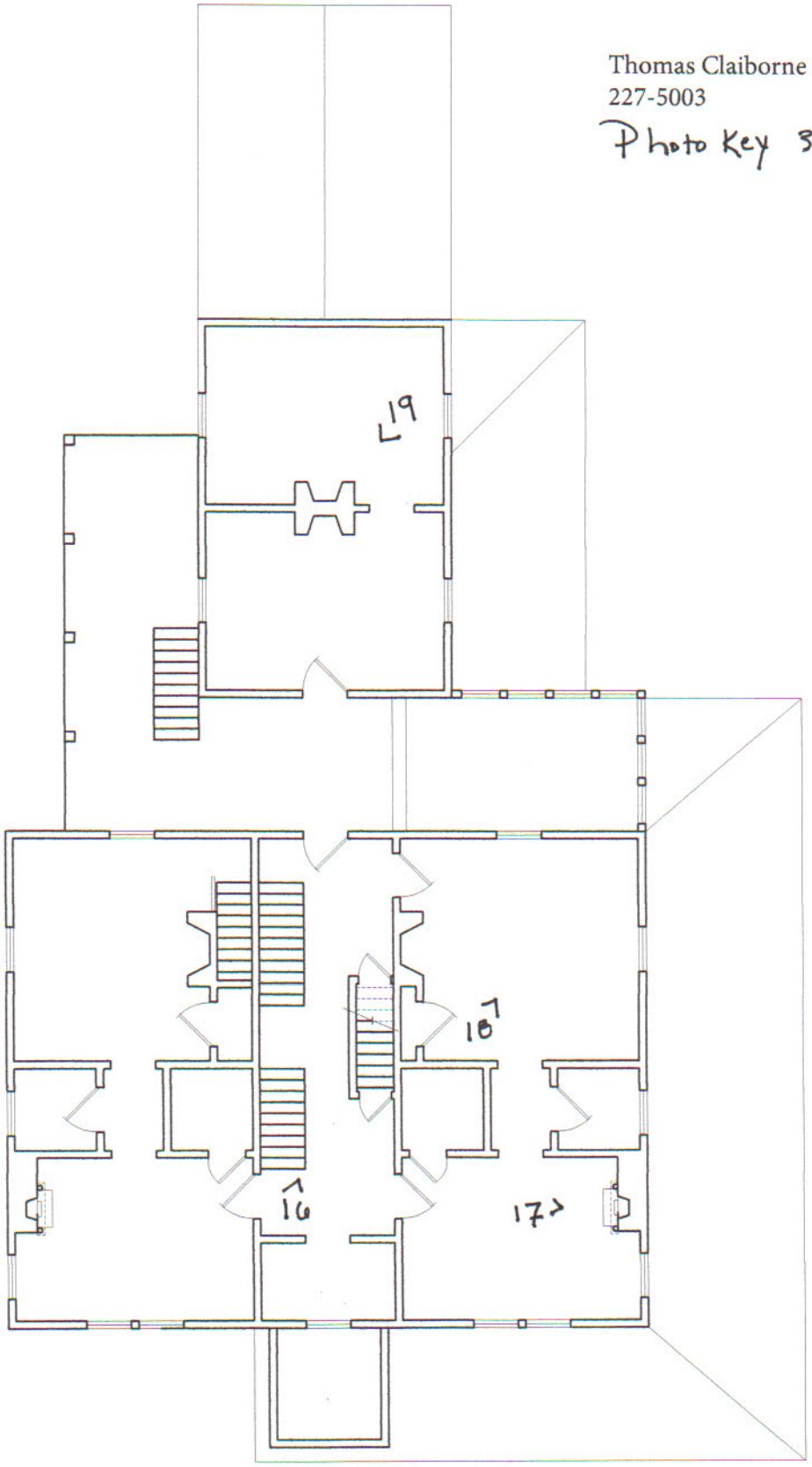


**Thomas Claiborne Creasy House**
**227-5003**
Photo Key 2 of 3




FIRST FLOOR PLAN
3/32" = 1'-0"

Thomas Claiborne Creasy House
227-5003
Photo Key 3 of 3




SECOND FLOOR PLAN
3/32" = 1'-0"