

VLR-6/20/89 NRHP-11/13/89

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 of eligibility for Individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Grayson, John, House

other names/site number 60-118

2. Location

street & number 1/2 mi. NE of VA Rt. 613 bridge over Little River N/A not for publication

city, town Graysontown vicinity

state Virginia code VA county Montgomery code 121 rip code 24141

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Prehistoric and Historic Resources of Montgomery County

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwellingDOMESTIC: secondary structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwellingDOMESTIC: secondary structure**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: single-pile center-passage plan

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICKwalls WOOD: weatherboardroof METAL: tin

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The John Grayson House is situated in a fertile bend of the Little River north of Graysontown. The house and outbuilding are completely enclosed by a board fence forming a square domestic space. The single-pile, center-passage-plan dwelling has a two-story integral ell. The standing-seam metal roof is hipped where the ell and main house meet. The house stands on a slightly raised full basement with brick walls. The basement is lit by double-hung windows. Six-over-six double-hung windows flank a side-lit and transomed central entry on both floors of the three-bay front. The doors are sheltered by a two-story pedimented porch containing a circular louvered vent in the gable. The porch is supported on small square posts. The second level features a turned balustrade. Each end of the main house and the ell have two-story brick exterior chimneys. A one-story L-shaped porch is found in the angle of the ell. It contains a basement level porch with brick pavers giving access into each of the basement rooms. A double-flight open-stringer stair rises in the center passage. The east basement room is equipped with a pin rail and pegs.

To the northeast of the ell stands a tall frame smokehouse with a stone foundation, a pyramidal standing-seam metal roof, and aluminum siding. The house and grounds have undergone very little alteration since the house was constructed.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
ca. 1850

Significant Dates
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The house at John Grayson's farm is significant under criterion C as an extremely well-preserved example of the regionally popular center-passage dwelling form. It was during the mid-nineteenth century that frame dwellings began to appear in greater numbers. Nineteen center-passage frame houses of two stories were built in the antebellum period in Montgomery County. Eight others were built of brick and one of log. The house is a good example of a successful entrepreneur and farmer's home of the period. Grayson Mills, later Graysontown, was established in 1847 by William Grayson and his sons John and Crockett across the Little River from the village of Snowville and a short distance downstream. In 1847, John Grayson "Having the sum of \$4,000 or \$5,000 in ready money . . . determined . . . to erect a valuable manufacturing mill, upon the homeplace, with the consent of his father and with the understanding . . . that the homeplace was to be conveyed to him." (Chancery case #210). William Grayson's homeplace stands in Graysontown at site 60-114. John Grayson probably built his house after the 1847 date of the chancery case mentioned above.

Bentley Hite, owner of the property, remembers it as John Grayson's house. The east basement room was used as a meeting room in his parent's time. The frame smokehouse or meat house is an unusual feature in an area where most secondary structures were built of log during this period. The house's pristine condition makes it particularly significant. It best represents the simple frame vernacular houses of the period in Montgomery County, houses that eschewed elaborate pattern-book ornament for a solid expression of the owner's status and values.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hite, Bentley. Interview, January 1986.
Weeks, Raymond. Interview, January 1986.
Montgomery County Chancery Court Case #210

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Virginia Department of Historic Resources
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre.

UTM References

A 17 5139 320 4100070
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at point A 50 feet NW and 80 feet SW of the W corner of the house, east 215 feet to point B, thence south 142.5 feet to point C, thence west 215 feet to point D, thence north 142.5 feet to point of origin.

See continuation sheet

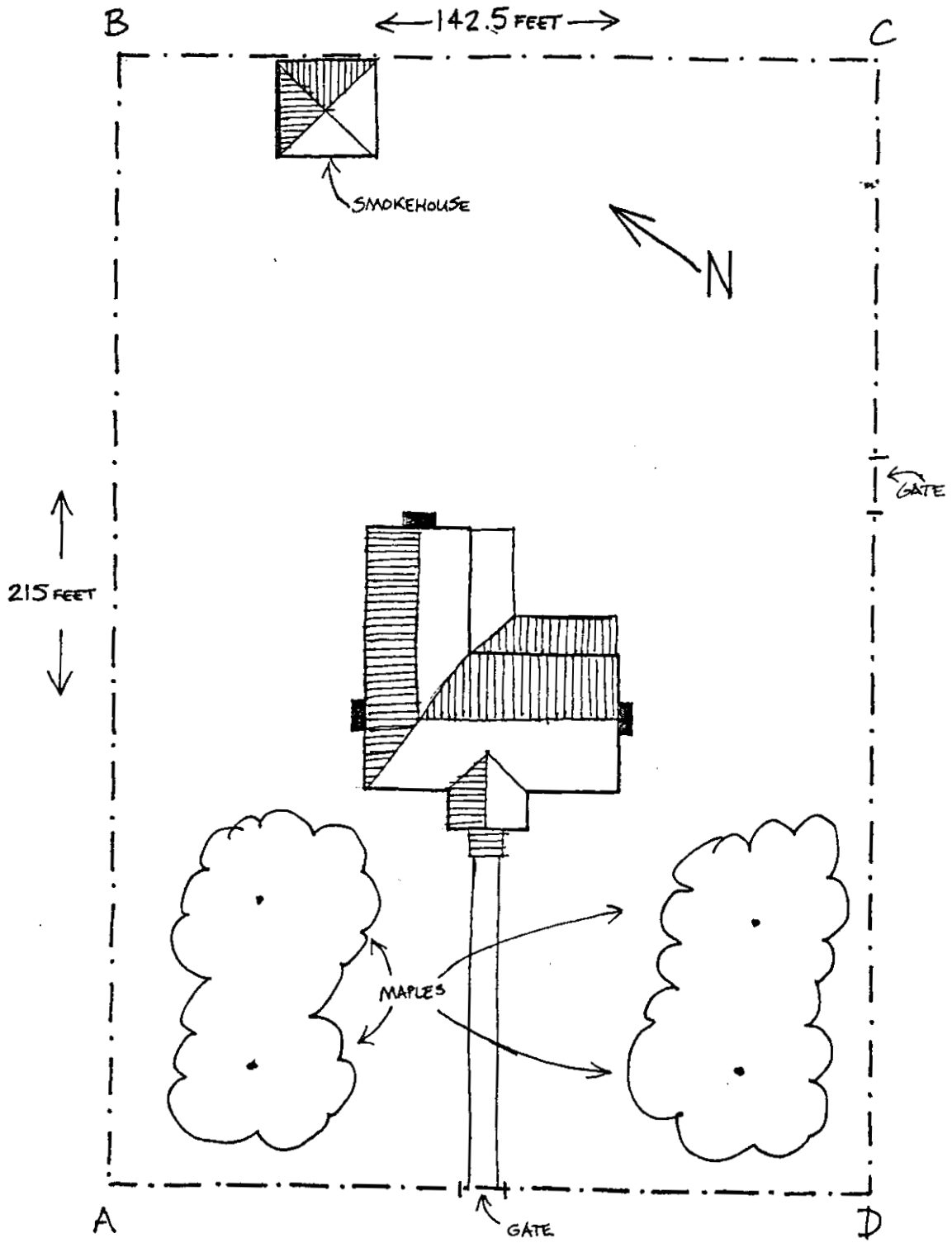
Boundary Justification

The boundaries were chosen to include the house, outbuilding, and domestic-related space.

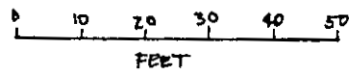
See continuation sheet

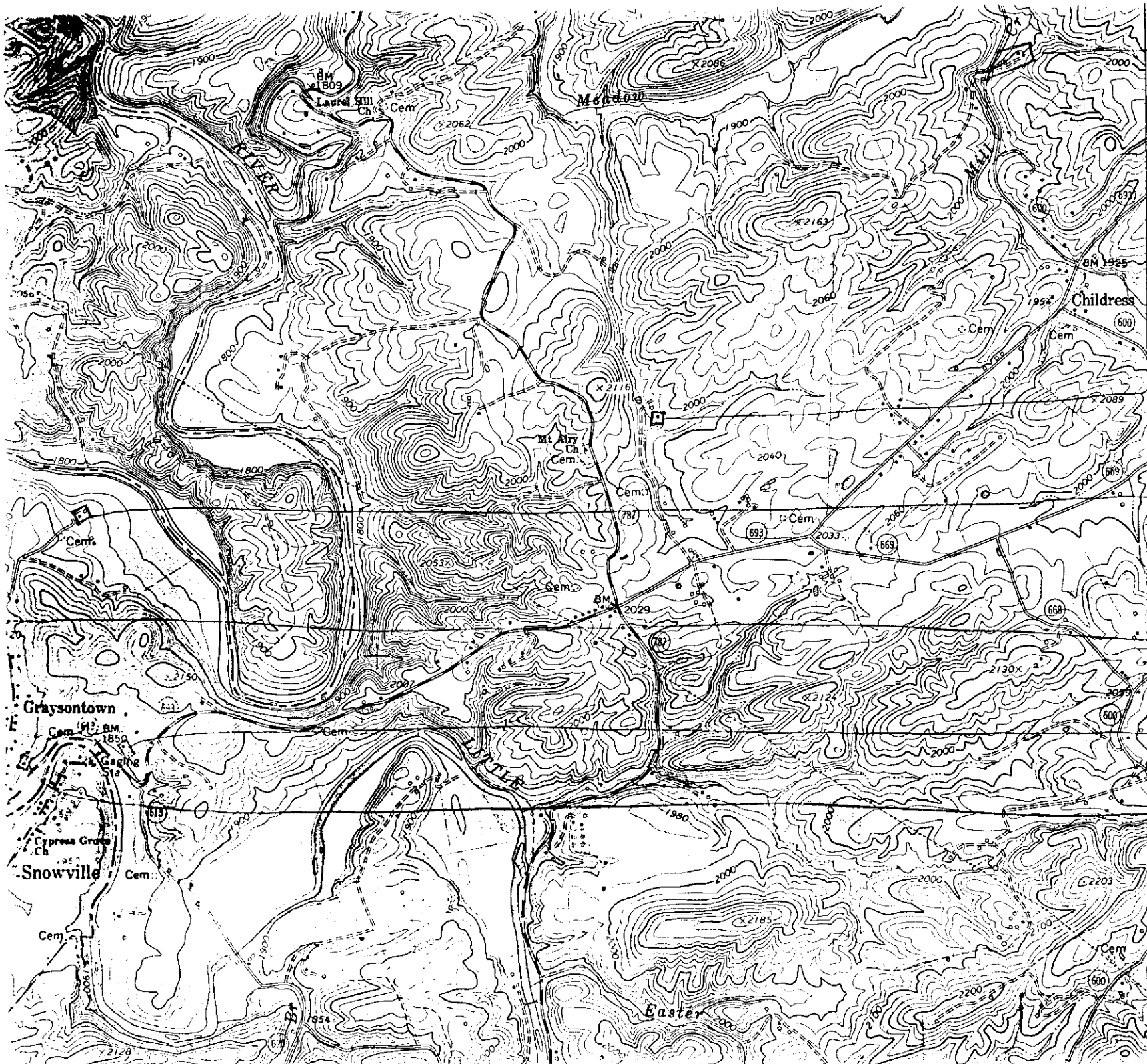
11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gibson Worsham date June 1988
 organization Gibson Worsham, Architect telephone (703) 552-4730
 street & number Route 2, Yellow Sulphur Springs state Virginia zip code 24073
 city or town Christiansburg



60-118 JOHN GRAYSON HOUSE
 G. WORSHAM
 K. MARTIN 10/87





- BOWYER -
TROLLINGER FARM
4102 T 543860 4102680
- (RINER)
4958 III SW
- BM 1925
- Childress
- 4101
- CROMER HOUSE
17 542060 4100530
- (RINER) 3 MI.
- JOHN GRAYSON
HOUSE
4100 17 539320 4100070
- GRAYSON-GRAVELY
HOUSE
2'30" 17 528890 4099540
- BISHOP HOUSE
4099 17 539520 4098965
- GRAYSONTOWN
METHODIST CHURCH
17 539030 4098860
- RADFORD
SOUTH
QUAD
4098