



PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

DHR No. (to be completed by DHR staff) \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose of Evaluation

Please use the following space to explain briefly why you are seeking an evaluation of this property.

Our home was built in 1823 and remained in the Bragg Family for 110 Years. We have copies every property deed on the owners of this house. The house was the first of the Petersburg Women’s Symphony Designer Homes in 1992. The home is completely restored and has been open to the public for the 2016 Garden Tour and again for the 2016 Christmas tour. A website, (<http://www.bragghouse.com>), has been created for providing the history of the home and the current owners. The owners have a 2/inch binder that includes birth, marriage, and death certificate of the Bragg family along with property deeds. The Bragg family was part of the early settlers to Petersburg.

Are you interested in applying for State and/or Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in receiving more information about DHR’s easement program? Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

1. General Property Information

Property name: Bragg House

Property address: 319 High Street

City or Town: Petersburg, Virginia

Zip code: 23803

Name of the Independent City or County where the property is located: Petersburg

Category of Property (choose only one of the following):

Building  Site \_\_\_\_\_ Structure \_\_\_\_\_ Object \_\_\_\_\_

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: .96

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban \_\_\_\_\_ Suburban \_\_\_\_\_ Town  Village \_\_\_\_\_ Hamlet \_\_\_\_\_ Rural \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe the property’s overall setting, including any notable landscape features:

- The house, built in 1823, is located at the original lot #24 on .96 acre tiered park like setting in the middle of Historic Old Town Petersburg. The property still has the original foundations of the Carriage House, Ice House, and Stone Retaining Wall. The multiple gardens display plants and flowers indigenous to Virginia.
- The House is currently listed in the Petersburg Historic Registry as #102



### 3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): Federal / Greek Revival

If the property was designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here: David Dobson conveyed the original house to Jones Mitchell, (Dec, 04, 1801), a local real estate speculator and successful businessman, who replaced this 18<sup>th</sup>-century house, after a fire, with the present dwelling in 1823. The house was built as a federal style home and purchased by William A. Bragg Sr in 1863. William's son Daniel returned to the home and soon began to modernize with Doric Columns now known as Federal Greek Revival.

If the builder is known, please list here: Jones Mitchell

Date of construction (can be approximate): 1823

#### Narrative Description:

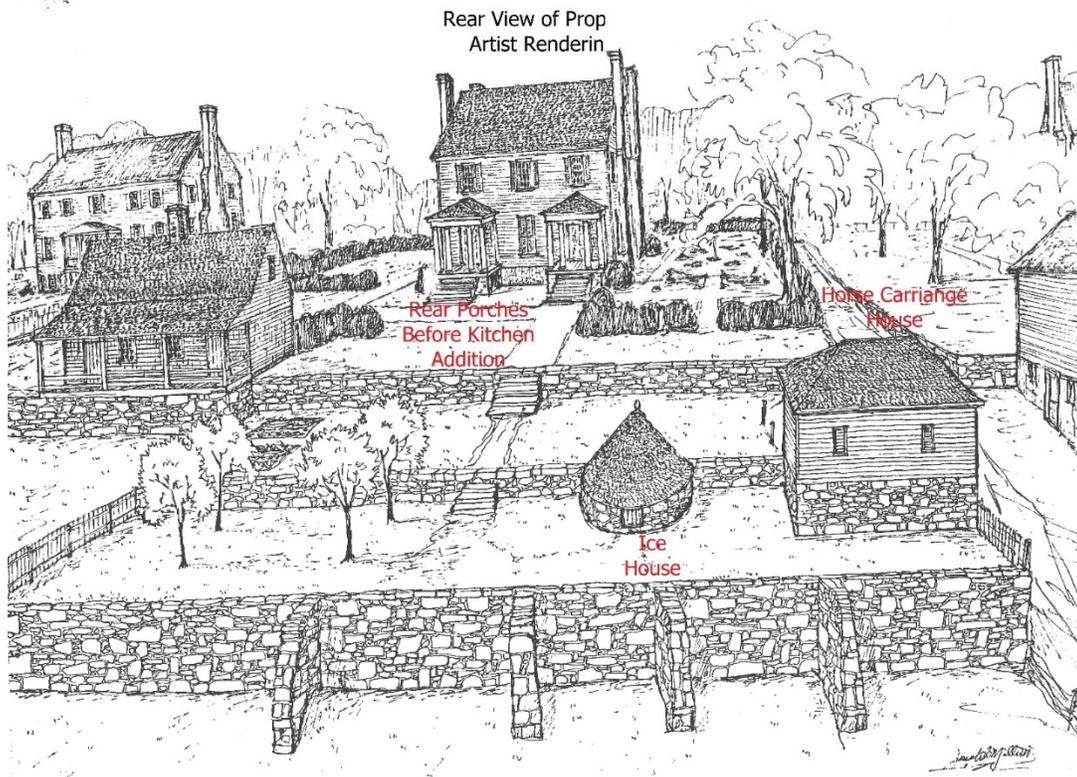
In the space below, briefly describe the general characteristics of the entire property, such as its current use (and historic use if different), as well as the primary building or structure on the property (such as a house, store, mill, factory, depot, bridge, etc.). Include the architectural style, materials and method(s) of construction, physical appearance and condition (exterior and interior), and any additions, remodelings, or other alterations.

- In 1762 the "New Town" of Petersburg began development of High Street. Shortly thereafter, a house was built on Lot No. 24.
- Jones Mitchell, local real estate speculator and successful business man, replaced this 18th-century house with the present dwelling in 1823.
- The house, known as the Bissett House, was purchased by William Bragg, Sr., who altered it to resemble a fashionable Greek Revival House.
- In the mid-1860's Daniel Bragg Jr., William's brother, returned to the House and soon began to modernize it. Since then few significant alterations have been made.
- *(Information provided by W. J. Graham, Mgr., Historic Area Building, Colonial Williamsburg.)*
- The entrance to this two-story house has a grand carved door that is 2-1/2" thick, fluted columns and transom with leaded glass panes.
- In the living room the gas light fixture in the ceiling and the lamps on the mantel have been electrified.
- All Ceilings are 10.5 Feet in height
- There are 7/working fireplaces in the house

- Front Parlor Fireplace consists of black marble was imported from Europe and has been converted to gas heater
- The Dining Room Fireplace also consists of black marble imported from Europe and remains wood burning
- The Library consist of dark walnut wood that has since been painted white and has been converted to gas logs
- The Master Bedroom consists of wood and iron and has been converted to gas logs
- The East Bedroom consist of wood with an iron grate for the hot coals
- The West Bedroom consist of wood with an iron grate for the hot coals
- The English Basement Apartment consists of wood and brick and remains wood burning
- The Foyer, Dining Room, and Master Bath still have the original Gasoliers that have since been electrified
- The Parlor has the most intricate plaster flower molds and medallion along with the carved crown molding and walnut wainscoting.
- The Dining Room and Library crown molding and windows include intricate carved wood
- The flooring throughout the entire home are original heart of pine wood.
- The outside consists of clapboard siding and all windows and leaded panes remain original
- The exposed beams in the basement and attic confirm that they are all hand hewn beams
- In 1992 the Petersburg Women's Symphony Orchestra chose 319 High Street as the first of many Designer Homes.
  - See attached articles regarding the restoration and Open House

Briefly describe any outbuildings or secondary resources (such as barns, sheds, dam and mill pond, storage tanks, scales, railroad spurs, etc.), including their condition and their estimated construction dates.

- As noted in the artist rendering the .96 acres still show remnants of an Ice House, Carriage House, and Stone Buttresses. The stone foundation of what may have been the outside kitchen or slave quarters is all that remain.



#### 4. Property's History and Significance

In the space below, briefly describe the history of the property, such as significant events, persons, and/or families associated with the property. Please list all sources of information used to research the history of the property. (It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or family genealogies to this form.)

If the property is important for its architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, or other aspects of design, please include a brief explanation of this aspect.

- It is obvious that the Bragg Family was a pioneer family to the Petersburg area.
- Joseph Bragg, born in Amelia, Virginia May 28, 1784 is son of William Bragg who was born in Whitehaven..England. William migrated to Virginia prior to the birth of his son Joseph
- Joseph Bragg married Elizabeth Willson April 6, 1808 in Amelia Virginia.
- Through Joseph Bragg we have Birth Certificates, Death Certificates, Marriage Certificates, Census Reports, and Deeds that prove this was an early pioneer family to Virginia
- Joseph Bragg (1784-1859), (Petersburg Mayor 1828-1829), who later became "Col Joseph" owned not only Swift Creek Mill, but other tracts of land in Chesterfield and Petersburg. There are numerous references of land transactions by Joseph and all his subsequent descendants. Land, banking, and milling established Joseph's wealth. He was already a slave holder, owning 20 slaves as the end of his life. By comparison, the Friends, who were the largest hand owners in the count (802 acres), owned 36 slaves. During his lifetime, Joseph was also the surety of many marriage bonds. He is buried at the family home in Chesterfield.
- As can be seen in the family tree, Joseph and seven children, notably William A. Bragg (Sr.) (1809-1863). Joseph's other children included Daniel Willson (1812-1877), Thomas and John (Dr. John (?-1858)). When William Sr. purchased the High Street House and other parcels in 1832, he paid \$3000.00 at the age of 23. Doubtless Joseph must have helped him purchased the house and to help fund the renovations that William put into the house to make it into the Greek Revival Style. The site was plotted as early as 1762 by Peter Jones as part of the "New Town Petersburg" making it a genuinely pre-revolutionary site.
- The .96 Acres that the Bragg House currently sits on, there are remnants of the Ice House, Carriage House, and Kitchen/Slave Quarters depicted in the artist rendering of what the house looked like at the time William Bragg Sr., purchased and lived here.
- The House is Wood Clap Board Siding. All windows are leaded glass panes (6 over 6)
- The Style if Federal. After Daniel Willson Bragg added the front porch and dual Doric Columns it is now referred to as Federal Greek Revival.
- The Front Porch 2-1/2 Thick Front Door with Glass Leaded Fan Windows and Intricate wood work truly show the architecture used in the early 1800s.
- The total room count is: 9/Rooms
- The home is 3-bedrooms 2.5 Bathrooms
- The English Basement consists of, (3/Rooms), Full Kitchen, Living Room with wood burning fireplace, 1/Bedroom and 1 Full Bath with two entrances.

#### References:

1.	Amelia County, Virginia, Will Book 1, Page 1, Will dated June 11, 1736. Robert Kaiser <a href="http://www.genforum.genalogy.com">http://www.genforum.genalogy.com</a>
2.	Chesterfield, Virginia, 1792 Will of William Bragg. Robert Kaiser <a href="http://www.genforum.genalogy.com">http://www.genforum.genalogy.com</a>

3.	<p>The Library of Virginia, Richmond, VA., Virginia State Land Office. Patents No. 12, 1724-1726.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• August 17, 1725, Henrico County, Description: 135 acres on the north side of Appomattox River.</li> <li>• The Library of Virginia, Richmond, VA., Virginia State Land Office. Patents No. 14, 1728-1732, (pt.1 &amp; 2), p. 14 (Reel 11).</li> <li>• September 28, 1730, Prince George County, Description: 350 acres on the lower side of Flatt Creek adjoining William Kennon, and William Dunevant.</li> </ul>
4.	<p>The Library of Virginia, Richmond, VA.,</p> <p>Survey Report Image, SR 11981, <u>Exchequer Queen's Remembrancer, Port Books, Chester, Controller</u>, p. 1.</p>
5.	<p><a href="http://www.heritage.umd.edu/chrsweb/nps/Petersburg/PetersburgMainUnit/Chapter4C.htm">http://www.heritage.umd.edu/chrsweb/nps/Petersburg/PetersburgMainUnit/Chapter4C.htm</a></p> <p><i>"Charles Friend owned a plantation of 802 acres during the Civil War, a plantation that had 36 adult slaves in 1860 (PG Co. Personal Property Tax 1860). Unlike the homes of the vast majority of neighbors, the Friend dwelling survived the siege. However, \$2000 of a total value of \$3240 was deducted in 1865 for destruction of buildings. The dwelling stood into the twentieth century; a photograph in the park archives in Petersburg shows a two-story frame house and suggests a two-room deep or "double pile" floor plan."</i></p>
6.	<p><a href="http://arlisherring.com/tng/getperson.php?personID=1068434&amp;tree=herring">http://arlisherring.com/tng/getperson.php?personID=1068434&amp;tree=herring</a>  <u>Robert Bolling</u>, b. 24 Mar 1751, Prince George Co., VA</p>
7.	<p><a href="#">Ward, Dulaney</a>, The Petersburg Siege Museum, Petersburg, Virginia.</p>
8.	<p><i>The Petersburg Index</i> (Petersburg, VA), Oct. 25, 1870. Film 128, The Library of Virginia.</p>
9.	<p><i>The Daily Post</i> (Petersburg, VA), Jan. 22, 1887. The Library of Virginia</p>
10.	<p>John Hart, <i>Collection of Confederate Letters and Receipts, 1860-1868</i>, Accession 20234, Personal Papers Collection, The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia</p>
11	<p><i>Chataigne's Petersburg Directory</i>, 1889-90, p. 90.</p>

**Deed Book:**

# BRAGG HOUSE SALE TRANSACTIONS

## 319 High Street, Petersburg, VA

All Deed Book References are for the City of Petersburg, Virginia.

Deed Book	Transaction Date	Transaction Amount	From	To	Notes
-	December 4, 1801	-	David Dodson	Jones Mitchell	-
6-305	December 17, 1821	-	Jones Mitchell and Wife	William Clarke	-
8-31	December 7, 1826	\$1,760	William Clarke	Thomas H. Boswell	-
9-50	December 12, 1832	\$2,000	Thomas H. Boswell	William A. Bragg	Transaction also included some other properties in addition to the 319 High St. house.  William A. Bragg, Sr. also renovated the house into the Greek Revival style.
37-395	January 11, 1876	\$5,833	Eliza Bragg (Widow of Wm. A, Sr.)	Thomas Watkins	House was sold to Thomas Watkins subject to the right of Eliza W. Bragg to live there for the rest of her natural life.  Both Watkins and Eliza died in 1893 and the house went to auction.
55-626	February 19, 1893	\$2,816	Estate of Thomas W. Watkins	Rosa Belle Bragg	Rosa Belle entered the winning bid of \$2,816.25.
145-102	April 22, 1942	\$3,500	J. Shepherd Russell and Elizabeth Bragg Russell	Percy Sadler	319 High Street leaves the Bragg family after 110 years.
448-179	February 2, 1988	\$62,500	Lena Audrey Gunn, et al	Dorsey T. Woodlief and Lucille W. Woodlief	House was conveyed by the estate (Lena Gunn, et al) of Percy Sadler March 3, 1981 to Norman Sadler.  Norman Sadler died intestate in 1987.
455-796	September 29, 1988	\$82,500	Dorsey T. Woodlief and Lucille W. Woodlief	J. Lachlan Hillier	

# BRAGG HOUSE SALE TRANSACTIONS

319 High Street, Petersburg, VA

All Deed Book References are for the City of Petersburg, Virginia.

Deed Book	Transaction Date	Transaction Amount	From	To	Notes
483-606	August 30, 1990	\$67,000	William P. Schaffer	Caudle Investments	Auction for foreclosure for \$67,000 outstanding debt. I believe Schaffer was the Commissioner.
552-219	April 1, 1996	\$195,000	Caudle Investments	Gordon Goodwin and Zelma S. Taylor	
620-472	August 19, 1999		Deed of Correction, Revised Plat.	Gordon Goodwin and Zelma S. Taylor	8 Rooms, 3 Bedrooms, 2 1/2 Baths, Forced Hot Air Heat, House 3,225 Sq. Ft., Basement 1,330 Sq. Ft., Lot is 0.76 Acre.
2015-2530	October 29, 2015	\$353,500	Gordon Goodwin and Zelma S. Taylor	Larry Gold and Bobby Milford	Main House: 8 Rooms, 3 Bedrooms, 2 1/2 Baths, Forced Hot Air Heat, House 3,225 Sq. Ft.,  Basement: 3/Rooms, 1 Bedroom, 1/Bath, Full Kitchen, Forced Hot Air Heat 1,330 Sq. Ft.  Lot is 0.96 Acre
<b>Timeline of Renovations to the House</b>					
	Renovation Date	Cost	Description		Notes
	October 21, 1991	\$40,000	Renovation		
	October 26, 1991	\$8,200	Gas Installed		
	November 12, 1991	\$2,000	Electrical		
	November 26, 1991	\$4,500	3 Baths		
	December 17, 1996	\$7,000	Chimney Liner		
	2006	\$264,000	Assesed Value of Home Land \$30,000, Home \$234,000		

Bragg House Sale Transactions 20080903.xls

1/5/2020

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## Appendix 1 - Deeds

### [Title 1826 - William Clarke to Thomas Boswell](#)

- [Deed 008-031 Clark to Boswell](#)
- [Transcription 008-031 Clarke to Boswell](#)

### [Title 1832 - Thomas Boswell to William A Bragg](#)

- [Deed Transcript 009-050 Boswell to William A Bragg](#)
- [Deed 009-050 Boswell to William Bragg Page #1](#)
- [Deed 009-050 Boswell to William Bragg Page #2](#)

### [Title 1876 - Eliza Bragg to Thomas G Watkins](#)

- [Deed 037-395 Eliza Bragg to Watkins](#)
- [Deed Transcript 037-395 William A Bragg to Watkins](#)

### **Title 1893 - Thomas G Watkins Rosa Belle Bragg**

- [Deed 055-626 Watkins to Rosa Belle Bragg Page #1](#)
- [Deed 055-627 Watkins to Rosa Belle Bragg Page #2](#)
- [Deed Transcription 055-627 Watkins to Rosa Belle Bragg](#)

### **Title 1942 - J Shepherd/Elizabeth Russel to Percy Sadler**

- [Deed 145-102 Shepherd/Elizabeth Russel to Sadler Page #102](#)
- [Deed 145-103 Shepherd/Elizabeth Russel to Sadler Page #103](#)
- [Deed 145-104 Shepherd/Elizabeth Russel to Sadler Page #104](#)
- [Deed 145-105 Shepherd/Elizabeth Russel to Sadler Page #105](#)

### **Title 1988 Lena Gunn et al to Dorsey Woodlief**

- [Deed 448-179 Gunn/Durette/Watkins to Woodlief](#)
- [Deed 448-180 Gunn/Durette/Watkins to Woodlief](#)
- [Deed 448-181 Gunn/Durette/Watkins to Woodlief](#)
- [Deed 448-182 Gunn/Durette/Watkins to Woodlief Page #2](#)
- [Deed 448-183 Gunn/Durette/Watkins to Woodlief Page #3](#)
- [Deed 448-184 Gunn/Durette/Watkins to Woodlief Page #4](#)
- [Deed 448-185 Gunn/Durette/Watkins to Woodlief Page #5](#)
- [Deed 448-186 Gunn/Durette/Watkins to Woodlief Page #6](#)
- [Deed 448-187 Gunn/Durette/Watkins to Woodlief Page #7](#)
- [Deed 448-188 Gunn/Durette/Watkins to Woodlief Page #8](#)
- [Deed 448-189 Gunn/Durette/Watkins to Woodlief Page #9](#)
- [Deed 448-190 Gunn/Durette/Watkins to Woodlief Page #10](#)
- [Deed 448-191 Gunn/Durette/Watkins to Woodlief Page #11](#)
- [Deed 448-192 Gunn/Durette/Watkins to Woodlief Page #12](#)
- [Deed 448-193 Gunn/Durette/Watkins to Woodlief Page #13](#)

### **Title 1988 - Woodlief to Hillier**

- [Deed 455-796 Hillier Page #1](#)
- [Deed 455-797 Hillier Page #2](#)

### **Title 1990 - J. Lachlan Hillier to Caudle Investments**

- [Deed 483-606 Hillier to Caudle Investments Page #1](#)
- [Deed 483-607 Hillier to Caudle Investments Page #2](#)
- [Deed 483-608 Hillier to Caudle Investments Page #3](#)

### **Title 1996 - Caudle Investments to Goodwin/Taylor**

- [Deed 552-220 Caudle Investments to Goodwin/Taylor](#)
- [Deed 552-221 Caudle Investments to Goodwin/Taylor](#)
- [Deed 552-222 Caudle Investments to Goodwin/Taylor](#)
- [Deed 552-223 Caudle Investments to Goodwin/Taylor](#)

- [Deed 552-224 Caudle Investments to Goodwin/Taylor](#)
- [Deed 552-225 Caudle Investments to Goodwin/Taylor](#)
- [Deed 1999 - Correction by Goodwin/Taylor](#)
- [Deed Correction 620-472 Caudle Investments to Goodwin/Taylor](#)
- [Deed Correction 620-473 Caudle Investments to Goodwin/Taylor](#)
- [Deed Correction 620-474 Caudle Investments to Goodwin/Taylor](#)
- [Deed 620-475 Correction Caudle Investments to Goodwin/Taylor](#)

### **[Bragg House - 319 High Street 2007 Tax Assessment #1](#)**

### **[Bragg House - 319 High Street 2007 Tax Assessment #2](#)**

#### **Title 2015 - Goodwin/Taylor to Gold/Milford**

- Deed ###-### Goodwin/Taylor to Gold/Milford

#### **Appendix 2 - Genealogies**

- [Virginia Biography 1915- Hancock Lee Bragg Cover Page](#)
- [Virginia Biography 1915- Hancock Lee Bragg Page #2](#)
- [Virginia Biography 1915- Hancock Lee Bragg Page #3](#)
- [Virginia Biography 1915- Hancock Lee Bragg Page #4](#)
- [Virginia Biography 1915- Hancock Lee Bragg Cover Page](#)
- [Virginia Biography 1915- Hancock Descendant Chart](#)
- [Virginia Biography 1915- Hancock Genealogical References](#)

#### **Appendix 3 - Additional Research**

- [Bragg Notes by Dulaney Ward](#)
- [Friend Notes Page #1](#)
- [Friend Notes Page #2](#)
- [Mcilwaine House Notes](#)

#### **Appendix 4 - Reference Cited**

- [References Cited and Resources](#)

#### **Appendix 5 - How the Files Are Created & Stored**

- [Information on the file creation and storage on CDs](#)

**5. Property Ownership** (Check as many categories as apply):

Private:  X  Public\Local \_\_\_\_\_ Public\State \_\_\_\_\_ Public\Federal \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Legal Owner(s) of the Property** (If the property has more than one owner, please list each below or on an additional sheet.)

name/title:  Larry W Gold & Bobby D Milford (Married)

organization: \_\_\_\_\_

street & number:  319 High Street

city or town:  Petersburg  state:  VA  zip code:  23803

e-mail:  lvgold@comcast.net  telephone:  615-403-8014

Legal Owner's Signature:  Larry W Gold  Date:  8/1/2020

*•• Signature required for processing all applications. ••*

In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person:  N/A

Daytime Telephone:  N/A

**Applicant Information** (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)

name/title:  Larry W Gold & Bobby D Milford (Married)

organization:  N/A

street & number:  319 High Street

city or town:  Petersburg  state:  VA  zip code:  23803

e-mail:  lvgold@comcast.net  telephone:  615-403-8014

**6. Notification**

In some circumstances, it may be necessary for DHR to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator or City Manager.

name/title:  Aretha R. Ferrell-Benavides

locality:  Petersburg, Virginia 23803

street & number:  135 N. Union Street

city or town:  Petersburg  state:  Virginia  zip code:  23803

telephone:  804-733-2301