NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 5/31/2012)

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in 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. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Cedar Grove

other names/site number VDHR File Number 058-0006

2. Location

street & number 138 Lewis Mill Road ☐ not for publication

city or town Clarksville ☒ vicinity

state Virginia code VA county Mecklenburg code 117 zip code 23927

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

Signature of certifying official — Date July 8, 2010

Title — 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:)

per Edson H. Beall — Signature of the Keeper

8.16.10 — Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [X] private
- [ ] public - Local
- [ ] public - State
- [ ] public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box)

- [X] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
20	1	buildings
0	0	district
1	0	site
1	7	structure
0	0	object
22	8	**Total**

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

NA

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 structure
AGRICULTURE/processing
AGRICULTURE/animal facility
AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding
FUNERARY/cemetery

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
AGRICULTURE/storage
AGRICULTURE/animal facility
AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding
FUNERARY/cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Brick
walls: Brick
roof: Metal
other: N/A

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Cedar Grove is located in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, on the north side of Grassy Creek, and about five miles south of the town of Clarksville. The brick Greek Revival main house was built in 1838 by John Taylor Lewis, II on property that had been assembled by his father, John Lewis, and willed to his son. Lewis had no formal architect for the design of his elegant brick house, but was said to be influenced by his visits to a similar house in Alabama and to Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. Dabney Cosby was reputed to be the builder and "Old Jim" the head carpenter. The historic house is unusual in form – a large one-story block on a raised basement with a hipped roof capped with a smaller clerestory with a hipped roof. The house now demonstrates a Palladian form with modern one-story brick wings flanking the historic central block. Both the north and south elevations feature entry porches with six Doric columns. These elevations are nearly identical but the northern entrance is slightly more elegant, is located at the carriage way, and leads to the formal drawing room. The south entrance looks all the way to Grassy Creek which provided both power and river transport to the plantation. In the nineteenth century, Cedar Grove was a very successful farming operation, with tobacco, apple and corn crops, a grist mill, cooperage and a distillery. An ice house and smoke house dating from 1838 and a number of other secondary structures and agricultural buildings are found on the property. The property originally comprised 2,500 acres but the creation of Buggs Island Lake/John H. Kerr Reservoir in 1953 reduced its land to 770 acres. The parcel being nominated consists of 100 acres and includes most of the significant historic resources. The property is today well-taken care of with large hay fields and both open lands and woods for hunting and riding.

Narrative Description

Cedar Grove is located in southern Mecklenburg County, Virginia, bordered by Black Creek to the west, Grassy Creek to the south and the east, and Clarksville to the north. Originally comprising 2,500 acres, Cedar Grove now has 770 acres in fee as the construction of Buggs Island Lake/John H. Kerr Reservoir in 1953 involved the ceding of some 1,700 acres to the Federal Government. Thus the land that remains is the highest elevation and extends over the three large fingers from north to south into the lake. In its heyday as a working plantation virtually all of Cedar Grove was in cultivated fields. Today there are about 300 acres of open land and 470 acres of woods. The furrows of the ancestral tobacco fields are still visible in the second growth areas. The property is maintained as a residence and a shooting preserve. It is planted with sorghum, winter wheat, sun flowers, indigo, wild plum, chufa, partridge pea and every other food for wild game. The hay fields provide sufficient high quality hay for the three horses and two mules who live and work at Cedar Grove.

The main house of Cedar Grove is constructed of hand-molded oversized bricks that were made on the property. The original quarry for clay and the kiln are now under the lake. The bricks vary in color from rusty red to brown, and are laid in Flemish bond on the north and south elevations and 5:1 common bond on the east and west side elevations. The brickwork is of a very fine quality and the mortar joints still show evidence of penciling. The house is three bays wide and sits on a raised basement. It is capped with a hipped roof which rises to an unusual clerestory topped with another hipped roof. There are two interior chimneys flanking the clerestory section. All portions of the roof are standing-seam, galvanized steel painted blue/gray. The house features a double pile plan, with a 14 foot by 56 foot center hall and two rooms deep on either side. Both north and south elevations are dominated by substantial entry porches with very low half-hipped roofs supported by four large Doric columns and two engaged half-columns. Dentil molding is the dominant decorative feature on the exterior of the house and is found above all of the doors and windows, on the cornice of the porches, on the cornice of the main block, and on the cornice of the clerestory.

(See Continuation Sheet)

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.
- [ ] 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)

Property is:

- [ ] A owed 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
AGRICULTURE

Period of Significance
1838-1959

Significant Dates
1838

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1838 with the construction of the main house, ice house, and smoke house and concludes in 1959 when the restoration of the property by a descendent of the original owner was largely completed.

Criteria Consideratons (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of signficance and applicable criteria)

Cedar Grove's Greek Revival-style main house was built ca. 1838 for John Taylor Lewis, II. Its form – a hip roofed main block on a raised basement with a large, hipped roof clerestory – is unusual for Virginia. Its fine brick construction may have been overseen by Dabney Cosby, one of the workmen under Thomas Jefferson at the University of Virginia. Unusual interior treatments include woodwork exhibiting a number of the traits of Thomas Day, an African-American craftsman in nearby Milton, NC, as well as references to popular pattern books of the day. Cedar Grove was an active plantation and its surviving architectural resources – tobacco barns, slave quarters, tenant houses – as well as its vast fields once planted with tobacco and fruit trees as well as other crops -- provide evidence of its agricultural past. Cedar Grove is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under criterion C for its distinctive architecture and for its well-maintained collection of agricultural outbuildings in an unaltered setting. The house is a fine example of Greek Revival architecture, possibly built by a master builder with woodwork by a well-known African American craftsman, and is associated with a historically important period in the history of Southside Virginia. The design is unusual in Virginia and the house – partially restored in the 1950s and sensitively renovated in 1993 -- retains much of its historic materials. The secondary resources, those original to the house and those moved to the property in the 1950s, complete the impression of a manor house with associated outbuildings as it was reconceived during the 1950s restoration. Cedar Grove's period of significance extends from its date of construction in 1838 through 1959 when, following acquisition by a descendant of the original owner, its restoration was largely complete.

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

See continuation sheets

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

See continuation sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

See continuation sheets

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 #_____

Primary location of additional data:

__X__ State Historic Preservation Office
____Other State agency
____Federal agency
____Local government
____University
____Other
Name of repository: **Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): __DHR file # 058-0006

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 100

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	716509	4049638
2	17	716883	4049485
3	17	716830	4048993
4	17	716488	4048633

See continuation sheet. All points based on NAD 27.

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The boundary of the nominated property is shown on the attached USGS map and is identified by Mecklenburg County as Parcel Number 10188, Map # 188000_A_00_029B.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundaries coincide with the parcel that has been donated to the National Trust for Historic Preservation and include most of the major historic resources associated with the property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James W. Kinnear

organization _____ July 1, 2009

street & number Two Stamford Plaza, Suite 1500, 281 Tresser Blvd. telephone 203-327-7858

city or town Stamford state CT zip code 06901

e-mail JAMESKNNR@aol.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

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

- **Continuation Sheets**

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

Property Owner:

name James W. Kinnear and the National Trust for Historic Preservation

street & number Two Stamford Plaza, Suite, 1500, 281 Tresser Blvd. telephone 203-327-7858

city or town Stamford state CT 06901

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 18 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. fo the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Description, continued

On both the northern and southern elevations there is a double leaf entrance sheltered by a porch in the center bay and one double-hung 20-over-20 window on either side. The raised basement features double-hung 10-over-10 windows vertically aligned below the first floor windows. Both elevations feature matching partial width entry porches supported by four Doric columns and two engaged half-columns, constructed of radial bricks finished with plaster and set on brick bearing walls. They have very minimal capitals. Dentil molding is found at the cornice above a wide, plain frieze. At the bottom of the steps to the porch, bricks are laid in a radiating pattern to form a walkway. Both the north and south entrances are double-leaf with paneled entrance doors of solid walnut. Each entry has blown glass side lights of 21 panes to a side. The north entrance is slightly more elaborate in that it also has a transom of 33 blown glass panes. The sidelights and transom feature wider center lights flanked by narrower lights on the ends, a design that bears a striking resemblance to an illustration (plate 27) of Asher Benjamin's *The Practical House Carpenter* (1830.)[1] The north entrance was perhaps so designed to receive important guests as it leads directly to the formal reception parlor and the dining room. The 20-over-20 double-hung windows on the main floor contain much of their original glazing of blown glass, with all its bubbles and striations. All of the windows are protected by louvered wood shutters.

The east and west side elevations each feature two 20-over-20 windows on the main floor and 10-over-10 windows vertically aligned below. The side elevations exhibit the same level of decoration as the front and rear with dentil molding at the cornice and above each window opening. Until 1993, there was a small wing on the west elevation. This small brick bump-out had a half hipped roof and a single window on the north and south elevations and a door accessed by a flight of stairs on the west elevation. It is believed that it provided servant access to the dining room from a detached kitchen building (no longer standing). This small wing was demolished in 1993 and replaced with the new west wing which houses the modern kitchen.

All four elevations of the clerestory contain a continuous ribbon of windows. The two-light (horizontal) wood windows slide open. The clerestory also features a wide eave overhang and a dentilled cornice.

In addition to its unusual exterior form, Cedar Grove contains some unusual and impressive interior woodwork. The main floor plan is straightforward with four rooms arranged around a central stair hall. There are two main entrances to the central hall; the north entrance is slightly more elaborate than the south entrance and was probably intended to be the primary entrance. The floors throughout are the original heart pine and the 13" baseboards feature a different Greek Revival molding profile in each room. The ceilings on the main floor are a generous 14 ½ feet. The four rooms are all roughly equal in size, measuring 20' x 20'. Plaster ceiling medallions and crown molding were added in 1993, using an 1810 template. Original door and window trim is found throughout and, like the baseboards, demonstrates slight variations from room to room. Two of the rooms on the main floor, the current music room and bedroom, have deep paneled window casings. Other openings feature the typical Greek Revival wide paneled architrave with square corner blocks.

The open-stringer main stair rises gently to a landing located just above the south entrance door, turns and rises in a straight flight to the second floor. The massive S-shaped carved newel post is the most striking feature of the central hall. The style and workmanship of this piece suggests that it is possibly the work of Thomas Day, a free-black cabinetmaker from Milton, North Carolina. The stair features square balusters (two per tread) and a carved vine motif on the stair ends, while offset flat paneling decorates the wall below the stringers. A new stair to the basement was inserted below the main stair in 1993; the newel at the basement level was custom made to match the original newel.

The northeast room was originally the parlor (now a bedroom). In addition to ample light from the two large windows, the room is graced with two built-in arched niches flanking the fireplace. Each niche features reeded pilasters supporting the arch; the transition between pilaster and arch is unusual in that the pilasters do not have capitals. This appears to be an original feature of the craftsmanship. The round arches have additional reeding on their undersides, a carved rope-like motif and carved keystones. In 1993, shelves and lower cabinets were built into one of the niches, while the other was turned into an opening leading to the new addition. The mantle in this room is not as elaborate as one would expect given the carving found on the niches. Single collonettes flank the firebox and support a wide frieze with a single narrow raised panel below a molded mantel shelf. This mantel was grained to look like marble in 1993.

The northwest room is the original dining room. Doorways with transoms matching the pattern found in the sidelights and transom on the main entrance flank the mantel on the south wall. This mantle is simpler than the one in the parlor with flat tapered pilasters supporting a plain frieze and mantel shelf. One doorway leads to a steeply winding stair down to the basement, while the other originally led to the small passage leading to the side entrance in the wing and now leads to the kitchen in the new addition. The room is papered with Zuber paper showing four hunting scenes. The paper was printed and installed in 1993 from wood blocks that were carved in 1790.

The southeast room is now the music room. This space originally had two closets flanking the fireplace; these have now been turned into built-in bookcases. The mantel is an understated Greek Revival design with paneled pilasters supporting a five-part frieze below a molded mantelshelf.

The southwest room is now the drawing room. This room also has two doors flanking the fireplace; one leads to the original basement stair and the other to the new kitchen addition. Both retain original transoms. The mantel is similar to the one in the music room in its very restrained Greek Revival influence shown in paneled pilasters supporting a wide, plain frieze. It was painted to look like marble in 1993. This room originally featured a secondary, fully enclosed stair to the second floor. This stair was removed in 1993.

Originally, the second floor contained one bedroom, a small library and a birthing room. In 1993 the configuration was changed to two bedrooms and two baths. The east bedroom has 10 inch baseboards, 9 feet 10 inch ceilings, clerestory windows above eye level that slide horizontally, and a small fireplace on the east wall. A bathroom adjoins the bedroom. The west bedroom has 10 inch baseboards, 9 feet 10 inch ceilings, clerestory windows above eye level that slide horizontally and a small fireplace on the west wall.

The original stairway to the English basement leads from a double opening between the two western main floor rooms. The stairs take off from this narrow passageway and wind down in a complete half circle. A hickory sapling bent along the axis serves as a hand rail and is quite necessary for so steep a descent.

In the English basement are four rooms, each 20 feet by 20 feet and a central hall 48 feet by 15 feet. The floor in the central hall is the original oversized brick which was relaid and water proofed in 1993. The ceilings in the basement are lower than the main floor at 9' but the space is well lit with two 10-over-10 double hung sash in each room.
The north east room was originally servants' quarters but in 1993 it was floored and paneled and now serves as a pool and recreation room. The northwest room is for laundry and utilities and has modern linoleum flooring and appliances. The southwest room was renovated in 1953 and pine flooring and a fire place with a pine mantle were installed. It is now used as the informal dining room and is serviced by a dumb waiter from the kitchen above which was installed in 1993.

Additions – Exterior

In 1993, in true Palladian style, one-story, one-bay wings were added to the east and to the west side elevations. The construction is quite similar to that of the original house but since the quarry and kiln are gone, the bricks for the wings were custom made in North Carolina. The same pattern of brickwork was precisely followed in the construction of the new wings with Flemish bond on the north and south elevations and common bond on the east and west elevations. Like the main house, the wings are built on raised basements. Both wings are 21 feet by 21 feet with pyramidal hipped roofs covered with raised rib galvanized steel. The south elevation of the new wings each has a main floor level uncovered porch (or deck) 18 feet wide by 9 deep leading to an entry of double walnut doors, each with 15 glass panes. Side lights on each side of the door each have 21 panes. Dentil cornices surmount the doors. The porches each have 38-inch-high balustrade with uprights 4 inches apart. Windows in the new wings are double-hung 10-over-15 sash on the main floor and 10-over-10 in the basement. The wings also echo the main block with the use of dentil molding at the cornice and above window and door openings and the use of louvered wood shutters.

Additions – Interior

The main floor of the west addition is a modern kitchen, while the east addition holds the master bathroom. The basement level of the west addition is occupied by a wine cellar and utility room while the east addition contains an equipment room.

Secondary Resources

On the property being nominated there are two main clusters of secondary resources: one around the Main House and the other around what is called the Gate House, located north of the Main House closer to Lewis Mill Road. The most important buildings are described below, while the more utiliarian buildings dating to the 1950s and non-contributing buildings from the 1990s are simply listed.

Immediately south of the Main House are four outbuildings: the smoke house and the Big Buffalo cabin on the west side of the north-south axis and the Ice House and the Little Buffalo to the east side.

Buffalo Cottages, built ca. 1811, moved to Cedar Grove in 1953, Contributing:
The two cottages known as Big Buffalo and Little Buffalo were built in 1811 at the Buffalo Lithia Springs hotel and spa which was located 5 miles west of Clarksville. They were built there to house the guests who came to "take the waters". They were located in a section of the spa with the very descriptive name of "Rowdy Row" which had been the bachelors' quarters of the spa. In 1953, when Buggs Island Lake was created from the confluence of the Dan and the Staunton Rivers, Mr. Lewis bought three of the cottages to save them from inundation and moved them to Cedar Grove. Two were patched together to form "Big Buffalo" and one stands alone as "Little Buffalo". They are both one story with side gabled roofs clad with standing-seam metal. They each feature two entrances on the façade and both are clad with weatherboard siding. Exterior end stone chimneys were added post-move. They retain their heart pine flooring and are paneled with heart pine of the same vintage. "Little Buffalo" contains a sitting room, bedroom, and a bath. "Big Buffalo" contains two bedrooms, two baths, a sitting room and a kitchen.

Ice House, ca. 1838, Contributing:

The Ice House dates from 1838; the roof structure has been replaced but the short stone walls and the pit are original. A steeply pitched front gabled roof covered with raised rib galvanized steel rests on a very short (18") stone wall. The gable ends are clad with weather boards and there is a batten door in the west gable end. Inside there is a round stone-lined pit reaching 15 feet into the ground. Ice was cut in the winter from shallow ponds and placed with sawdust in the ice house to provide ice for cold drinks throughout the summer. A ladder provides access to the ice.

Smokehouse, ca. 1838, Contributing:
The frame smokehouse is 15 feet wide, 12 feet deep and 20 feet high. The frame is pine covered with weatherboard siding and the side gabled roof is standing seam metal. There is one door on the east side and a vent in the roof. Items to be smoked were hung from the beams within over a wood fire. The space currently hides modern mechanicals that serve the main house.

Croquet House, Mid-nineteenth century, moved to current site in 1953, Contributing:
A building now known as the croquet house was moved to the site in 1953 from an unknown location. It appears to date to the mid-nineteenth century but it's original function and location are not known. A small one-story center section with a side gabled roof is flanked by two similarly sized, single-story, hipped-roof wings. It now has two bath rooms and one living room with one stove fire place and chimney. In 1993 the tennis court in front of the building was resodded into a croquet court.

Family cemetery, ca. 1838, Contributing:
One hundred yards northwest of the main house is the family cemetery holding the remains of John Taylor Lewis and his family and cenotaphs to generations of Lewises and Kinnears. Each spring the surrounding white dogwoods add their blessing to this hallowed corner of the plantation. Interestingly, there are no historic inscribed grave markers. There are 14 monuments arranged along a central brick path which were installed in the 1970s as well as numerous depressions marked by rough field stones. The monuments commemorate selected family members, some of whom are interred elsewhere. The cemetery is surrounded by a dry-laid stone wall and is covered by a verdant growth of vinca minor (periwinkle) which was commonly planted in grave yards. The oldest known grave belongs to Frances Boyd (Hodge) Lewis who died in 1852.

Duncan Lee House, 1953, Contributing
The Colonial Revival Duncan Lee House was constructed in 1953 for the caretaker of the property during the early to mid 20th century. The one-and-a-half story, three bay house is sheltered by a side-gabled slate roof. The house is clad with weatherboard siding and features a large exterior end brick chimney. The central entry is accessed by a brick stoop and flanked by 6/6 double hung windows. It is supposedly architect-designed and constructed from materials salvaged from a house in Petersburg.[2]

White Barn, Mid-19th century, Contributing
A two-story gable-roofed frame barn is located just south of the main house. Two doors are vertically aligned on the west elevation, one on each story, and the main structure is flanked by shed-roofed, single-story, enclosed lean-tos on the north and south elevations. The building is clad in weatherboard siding.

Tractor Shed, 1953, Contributing
Old Stables, 1953, Contributing

Old Storage Shed, 1953, Contributing
Car Port, 1953, Contributing

Gate House, Mid-Nineteenth Century, Contributing:
About 1 mile north of the main house on Lewis Mill Road is the Gate House, now and historically, home of the Manager. It is a typical three-bay I-house with a rear ell. A one-bay, two-story porch features Victorian detailing in the turned posts and balusters and sawn brackets. Exterior end chimneys are made of stone and brick and bracket the side gabled roof. The house has weatherboard siding and a standing seam metal roof. It is suspected that this house has been relocated to its current site, but it isn't known where from. The foundation is a modern continuous concrete foundation and the chimneys are very similar in materials and construction to the ones found on the Buffalo cabins which were built in the 1950s. On the ground floor of the house are two parlors, each with a fireplace and original heart pine floors, and a kitchen and bath. A small staircase leads to the second floor. There are two bedrooms, each with a fireplace, a bath and a study.

Tobacco Barns – 3, Mid-Late Nineteenth Century, Contributing:
Near the Gate House there are three tobacco barns erected for drying tobacco. Each is 18 feet by 18 feet and has two lean-to sheds of 18 feet by 10 feet to store firewood. The barns are of hand hewn logs, V-notched, sealed with mortar. Inside there are twenty-five beams of five levels of five beams each. Tobacco leaves were tied on slats and laid across the beams. Originally heated by a wood fire, they progressed to kerosene and finally electricity. There are two air intakes at ground level and one vent along the ridge. One tobacco barn is now a small museum displaying the original mill stones from the Lewis Mill (which now resides under Buggs Island Lake) and all the tools necessary to plant, feed, harvest, dry, sort and market tobacco.

Other secondary resources clustered near the Gate House:

Gray Barn, 1953, Contributing
Pump House, 1953, Contributing
Tack Room, 1953, Contributing
Stables, 1953, Contributing
Quail Pen, 1993, Noncontributing
Storage Shed, 1993, Noncontributing
Metal Pole Barn/Equipment Shed, 1993, Noncontributing
Dog Training Table, 1993, Noncontributing
Kennels and Dog Houses, 1993, Noncontributing
Carport, 1993, Noncontributing
Pigeon Cote, 1993, Noncontributing
Kennel Shed, 1993, Noncontributing

Slave Quarters, ca. 1850, Contributing:
About ½ mile east of the main house stands a one-story, four-room house with two exterior stone chimneys which incorporates a 19th century building, possibly a slave quarters. There were about 100 slaves on the plantation in the decades prior to the Civil War.[3] Mr. Ed Chappell of Colonial Williamsburg believes that the northwest room of the house is the oldest and began life in the 19th century as farm workers housing. The two chimneys also appear to date to this period, although they have been substantially repointed. The other three existing rooms of the building were constructed around

the 1940s from salvaged logs. At the same time, the original log building was taken down and substantially reconstructed. The house is 30 feet by 30 feet, with four rooms, each fifteen feet by fifteen feet. In the northwest room the original white wash remains up to a height of six feet. There is a running spring with a rock facing in the nearby woods that provided water.

Landscaping

In the 1950s the Lewis' completed some extensive landscaping that still survives. Flanking the southern entrance to the main house are two American boxwoods, each 10 feet in diameter at the bottom and 10 feet high. On the north side of the house are four similar American boxwoods. English boxwoods flank the path that leads from the southern entrance of the main house south to the cabins. English boxwoods also are in front of each cabin, the smoke house and the ice house. There is a boxwood garden just to the east of the croquet court. In front of the Big Buffalo cabin is a southern elm and south of each new wing is a pecan tree. All of this planting was done in 1953. To the east, north and west of the main house stand five huge black walnut trees, a cluster of fig trees is located between Big Buffalo and the smokehouse, and south of the Buffalo Cottages are five very large magnolias.

A dry-laid stone wall surrounds the main house, Buffalo Cottages, ice house, smoke house, and the family cemetery. The driveway curves from the plantation entrance to the north and swings around the whole compound ending at the north entry. To the south a path leads straight to the shore of Black Creek which is now part of Buggs Island Lake.

Narrative Statement of Significance, Architecture and Agriculture

Cedar Grove's architectural form appears to be unique in Virginia. When consulted by Calder Loth, DHR Senior Architectural Historian about similar buildings in North Carolina, Catherine Bishir, Architectural Survey Coordinator for the North Carolina Department of Historic Resources, was unable to identify a similar building form in that state. Cedar Grove is not only significant for its unusual form, but also for its well executed architectural details which retain their integrity. The house's interior spaces are grand and the architectural trim is refined and well executed. The fine brickwork bears similarity to that executed by Dabney Cosby, the Jeffersonian workman responsible for a number of buildings in the region, with which Mr. Lewis was likely familiar. While his involvement in the construction has not been documented, it appears to have been quite possible, given Cosby's presence in the area and given Mr. Lewis' apparent attempt to create an unusual residence as the centerpiece of his plantation. Likewise, the involvement at Cedar Grove of Thomas Day, a free African American craftsman from Milton, NC, whose work is found in both Southside Virginia and in North Carolina, has not been documented. The S-curved newel of the main stair certainly recalls his work and may be one of a series of finishing elements for substantial residences he did in the region. Day scholar Jo Ramsay Leimenstoll believes that the stair, parlor niches, and interior of the front entryway are Day's work. As architectural historian Catherine Bisher suggests, it may be that Day was involved in portions of the finish work but was not the sole craftsman to work on the house.[4]

Other features at Cedar Grove suggest that Lewis and his builder were familiar with architectural pattern books and points to the pervasiveness of pattern books as a source for architectural expression, even in the more remote parts of the Commonwealth. According to Calder Loth, Senior Architectural Historian for the Department of Historic Resources in a 1993 letter to the architect working on the rehabilitation of Cedar Grove and included in the archives file for the property at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, the transoms at Cedar Grove bear striking resemblance to an illustration (plate 27) of Asher Benjamin's *The Practical House Carpenter* (1830.)

Cedar Grove is likewise significant for the architecture of its variety of domestic and agricultural outbuildings. Taken together, those resources provide information about the agricultural activities carried out on plantations and estates in Southside Virginia and the buildings necessary to those pursuits from the antebellum period through the mid twentieth century. Like the plantation house itself, the agricultural and domestic buildings at Cedar Grove are well maintained, possess good integrity, and convey an accurate impression of the resources typically found on Virginia plantations from the period. The changes and additions to the house and property carried out in the 1950s are significant because they illustrate the way that the property was reconceived as a southern gentleman's estate during the restoration. As was typical with "restoration" projects in the mid-20th century, some artistic liberties were taken in the repurposing of historic buildings and the relocation of historic buildings onto the property, but the project did result in the preservation of buildings, including the main house, that may otherwise have been lost. The buildings that were restored, renovated and relocated as a part of this project also illustrate the shifting function of the property from agricultural production to leisure time recreation.

Developmental History/Historic Context

Cedar Grove, built by John Taylor Lewis, II in 1838, is representative of agricultural plantations that dotted the South in the late 18th and 19th centuries. The original Cedar Grove land of 1,600 acres was acquired in 1782 by Lewis's father, John Taylor Lewis, with the payment of 80,000 pounds of tobacco. This transaction and the subsequent growing of tobacco at Cedar Grove and throughout the Southside Virginia area are demonstrations of the important role that tobacco played in

the early days of the Commonwealth. The patriarch of the Lewis family, Ben Robert Lewis, had arrived in Virginia in 1635 on a ship named the "Blessing". There were several marriages between the members of the Lewis and the Meriwether families, of whom Meriwether Lewis is the most prominent, as aide to President Jefferson and as co-leader of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

John Taylor Lewis II expanded his holdings at Cedar Grove until the plantation included some 2,500 acres and he engaged in a number of successful agricultural pursuits, assisted with substantial slave labor. During these pre-war years, Cedar Grove prospered. A report found in the archives of the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond in the May 1846 records of the Spumarrow Agricultural Club, commends the plantation. The report commented on the tobacco crop, found the fences and gates in good order, and the farm buildings well constructed and judiciously located. The reporters were particularly struck with several young and flourishing orchards of select fruit and they commented that "as we consider good fruit not only a great luxury, but conducive to health, we are surprised that orchards are so generally neglected". The report went on to commend Col. Lewis for his careful and prudent use of manure to grow the crops.[5]

Cedar Grove was built to be the mansion house of this busy and prosperous plantation. A blacksmith's shop, grist mill, cooperage, tobacco curing sheds, and a distillery all contributed to the operation.

Cedar Grove was home to about 100 slaves, many of whom are listed in John Taylor Lewis, II's will of 1843. They are identified by a first name and by an estimated value of from $350 to $750. "Old Tom", "Old Jim", "Uncle Jesse" and "George Washington" and so many others created the extensive estate still seen today. This aspect of Cedar Grove's history is represented by its remaining slave quarters and slave cemetery and in the vestiges of a vast agricultural operation visible today. The building thought to have been a slave quarters was built ca. 1850.

Although it is not located on the parcel being nominated to the Register, there is a slave cemetery associated with Cedar Grove. It is located about a mile north of Lewis Mill Road, on top of a slight rise, in a stand of ancient oak trees. There are 14 discernable depressions marked with fieldstone head and foot stones but no inscriptions. This slave cemetery is believed to have been in use since the Lewis family purchased the land in 1790. Like the family cemetery, the slave cemetery is meticulously maintained.

The main house, with its distinctive Greek Revival architecture, is extremely well preserved, as are the two surviving original dependencies: an ice house and a smoke house. The property also includes two guest cabins that were originally built at the nearby Buffalo Lithia Springs in 1811 and moved to Cedar Grove in 1953. Cedar Grove may also represent the skill of two craftsmen, Thomas Day and Dabney Cosby, who did extensive work in the area.

There was probably no formal architect employed in the construction of the house. Mr. Lewis is thought to have been influenced by a house he had visited in Alabama somewhere on the route he took twice a year on horseback when he went to look after the affairs at a cotton plantation he owned in Mississippi. The form of the house, the oversized 20-over-20 windows, and the interior woodwork are unusual features that make Cedar Grove a significant work of architecture. Its sturdy construction, graceful formal rooms, strategic setting with access to water transportation and locally produced wood, brick and stone make it representative of plantation houses of the era.

Dabney Cosby is generally given credit for the construction of the main house at Cedar Grove, although no documentation has been found to definitively connect him with the house. Cosby was the principal brickmason for Hotels D and E along

with eight student rooms at the University of Virginia under the direction of Thomas Jefferson. Between 1830 and 1832 Cosby supervised the construction of several buildings at Randolph-Macon College in Boydton, the Mecklenburg County seat, and he moved to nearby Halifax County in 1835 where he is known to have been involved in the construction of several plantation houses. The fine quality of Cedar Grove's brickwork is certainly comparable to Cosby's work in the region.

Likewise, free black craftsman Thomas Day is assumed to be the individual responsible for some of the interior woodwork – including the staircase and arched niches in the parlor -- as well as several pieces of furniture at Cedar Grove. His work has been found in the region, both in North Carolina and Virginia. While much of the woodwork bears traits found in known examples of his work, Day's formal connection with work at Cedar Grove has not been positively identified.[6]

John Taylor Lewis, II moved into the house in 1838 accompanied by his second wife, Frances. Their first son, John Taylor Lewis, III was born in 1840, followed by Richard, Fanny and Leonard. These young people spent their childhood on the plantation and the boys attended Hampden-Sydney College. Frances Lewis died in 1852.

Richard and John Lewis joined the Clarksville Blues when the Civil War started in 1861. John achieved the rank of lieutenant and was captured at Gettysburg and put in military prison in Ohio. Richard was badly wounded at Bull Run, fought at Gettysburg, was wounded three more times and eventually sent home.

The end of the war brought much misery to Cedar Grove and its family. Mr. Lewis had lost his wealth, his labor supply and his future. One son returned from the war badly wounded, and another returned from prison in poor health. When Lewis died in 1866 the property was divided among John, Leonard, Richard and Fanny. Leonard received the Cedar Grove house with 1,163 acres of land. In 1877, however, another cruel blow fell. During his lifetime, Mr. Lewis had co-signed a note for $360 which he and his family believed to have been long since paid, but the court held otherwise. Thus, in 1880, with money scarce and property values low, all of Mr. Lewis' land went under the hammer. Various parcels were bought to become small farms, and the main house was used as a tobacco warehouse.

For the next fifty years, Cedar Grove was in perpetual regression, but in spite of neglect, the house never suffered substantial damage. From 1880 to 1929, the property only changed hands twice, but many different families lived there.

By 1929, even the house in its more or less abandoned state, with only four of its rooms being utilized, managed to preserve some sense of its former stature, despite the fact that the porch roofs had collapsed, and the windows in the English basement were completely gone. The white columns on the porches, however, were still resting on firm brick foundations. There were few shutters left on the house, but the wood trim and the dentil molding were well preserved. The brickwork had been inexpertly repointed in some areas but the quality of the original mortar was so good that the house remained virtually waterproof. Of the many service buildings, only the smokehouse remained intact. The ice house had become simply a massive hole beautifully walled with rock.

After years of neglect and decay, in 1929 Mr. Lewis' great grandson, also named John Taylor Lewis (called Jack), began to buy and reassemble the Cedar Grove property, bringing it back into the Lewis family's ownership. On January 29, 1929, Jack Lewis bought the house and 2,500 acres of the property.

From 1929 to 1950 Mr. Lewis pursued his career in finance, and his two daughters grew up. His own career prospered, and by Christmas of 1950, he was able to begin the restoration of Cedar Grove in earnest. Heat and water were installed and two small bath rooms were added in the small wing on the western elevation of the main floor, an oil furnace was placed in the basement, the lower windows were replaced, and all the original huge brass locks on the doors were made operable. Paint was removed from interior doors and woodwork to expose the natural wood, plaster was repaired, floors were sanded and windows reglazed as needed. Outside, the roof was replaced on the ice house. Three cabins, originally built in 1811, were moved from nearby Buffalo Lithia Springs. One was placed to the left of the walk leading south from the main house, and two were put together as one cabin to the right of the walk. They are called Little Buffalo and Big Buffalo, respectively. Although he does not discuss them in his book, *Ole Marster's Cedar Grove*, describing the history of the Lewis family and their home, evidence suggests that Mr. Lewis also moved what is now called the Croquet House and the Gate House to their current locations during the 1950s.

After Lewis' death in 1990, James and Mary Kinnear bought the property from Mr. Lewis' two daughters, Hilda Williams and Louise Toms, and accomplished the restoration that returned the house to the grandeur of its earlier days. The house is currently the centerpiece of the property which is maintained as a wildlife habitat. The fields continue to produce crops to feed the animals used on the property and the outbuildings continue to serve purposes similar to their historic uses. In 2001, Mr. and Mrs. Kinnear gave the main house, its outbuildings, gatehouse and adjoining lands to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, retaining lifetime tenancy and ensuring Cedar Grove's preservation.

Family Genealogy

John Taylor Lewis bought the original 1600 acres of Cedar Grove land in 1782 for 80,000 pounds of tobacco. He bequeathed this property to his son, John Taylor Lewis, II (1794-1866), who built the house. Sometimes honored by the appellation "Colonel", he never served in the military. He bequeathed 833 acres of the property to his son, John Taylor Lewis, III (1840-1882), whose son, John Taylor Lewis, IV, served in the Virginia legislature. His son, John Taylor Lewis, Jr. (1900-1990) reassembled the property and restored the mansion.

Endnotes

1. Calder C. Loth, DHR Senior Architectural Historian in a letter to Jack Rutherford, architect for 1993 rehabilitation at Cedar Grove, November 30, 1993. Copy in archives file for Cedar Grove (058-0006) at Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA.

2. John Taylor Lewis, Jr. Ole Marster's Cedar Grove (Second Edition), (Castleton, New York: Hamilton Printing Company, 2006), 64.

3. 1843 Will of John Taylor Lewis II.

4. Catherine W. Bishir, Architectural Survey Coordinator, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources in a letter to Calder Loth, DHR Senior Architectural Historian, December 20, 1993. Copy in archives file for Cedar Grove (058-0006) at Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA.

5. John Taylor Lewis, Jr. Ole Marster's Cedar Grove (Second Edition), (Castleton, New York: Hamilton Printing Company, 2006), 84.

6. Jo Ramsay Leimenstoll, personal communication, January 22, 2010. Documentary sources tying Day to Cedar Grove have not been located, but Ms. Leimenstoll, author of a forthcoming book on Day, has studied Cedar Grove and believes that the staircase, niches, and the interior of the front entryway are Day's work.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bracey, Susan L. Life By the Roaring Roanoke. Richmond: Whilter and Shepperson, 1978.

Lewis, John Taylor Jr. Ole Marster's Cedar Grove (Second Edition). Castleton, New York: Hamilton Printing Company, 2006.

Roanoke Branch of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. Land By the Roanoke. Clarksville, Virginia: Prestwood Foundation, 1976.

Interview and letter, Edward A. Chappel, Architectural Research Department, Colonial Williamsburg, August 14, 2001.

Interview and letter, Walter R. Beales, III, Esq., October 3, 1995.

Interview, Robert G.D. Pottage, III, 2009.

Interview, Mrs. Meriwether (Mary Fran) Lewis, 1993-2009.

Interview, Mr.s Louise Lewis Toms, 2006.

Interview, Mrs. Hilda Lewis Williams, 2006.

Geneaology, The Lewis Family

Will of John Taylor Lewis, Jr., 1843.

10. Geographical Data

UTM References (continued)

E. Zone 17, 716418 E, 4048495 N
F. Zone 17, 716194 E, 4048863 N

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Cedar Grove

Mecklenburg County, Virginia

Photo list Page 12

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Cedar Grove

City or Vicinity: Clarksville

County: Mecklenburg **State: Virginia**

Photographer: James W. Kinnear

Date Photographed: May 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of 20. Main House, south elevation.

2 of 20. Main House, north elevation.

3 of 20. East wing (addition), south elevation.

4 of 20. West wing (addition), north elevation.

5 of 20. 20 over 20 window, west elevation.

6 of 20. Drawing room.

7 of 20. Dining room.

8 of 20. Arched niche woodwork.

9 of 20. Kitchen entry (addition), west elevation.

10 of 20. Smokehouse.

11 of 20. Ice house.

12 of 20. Little Buffalo Cottage.

13 of 20. Big Buffalo Cottage.

14 of 20. Croquet House.

15 of 20. Gate House.

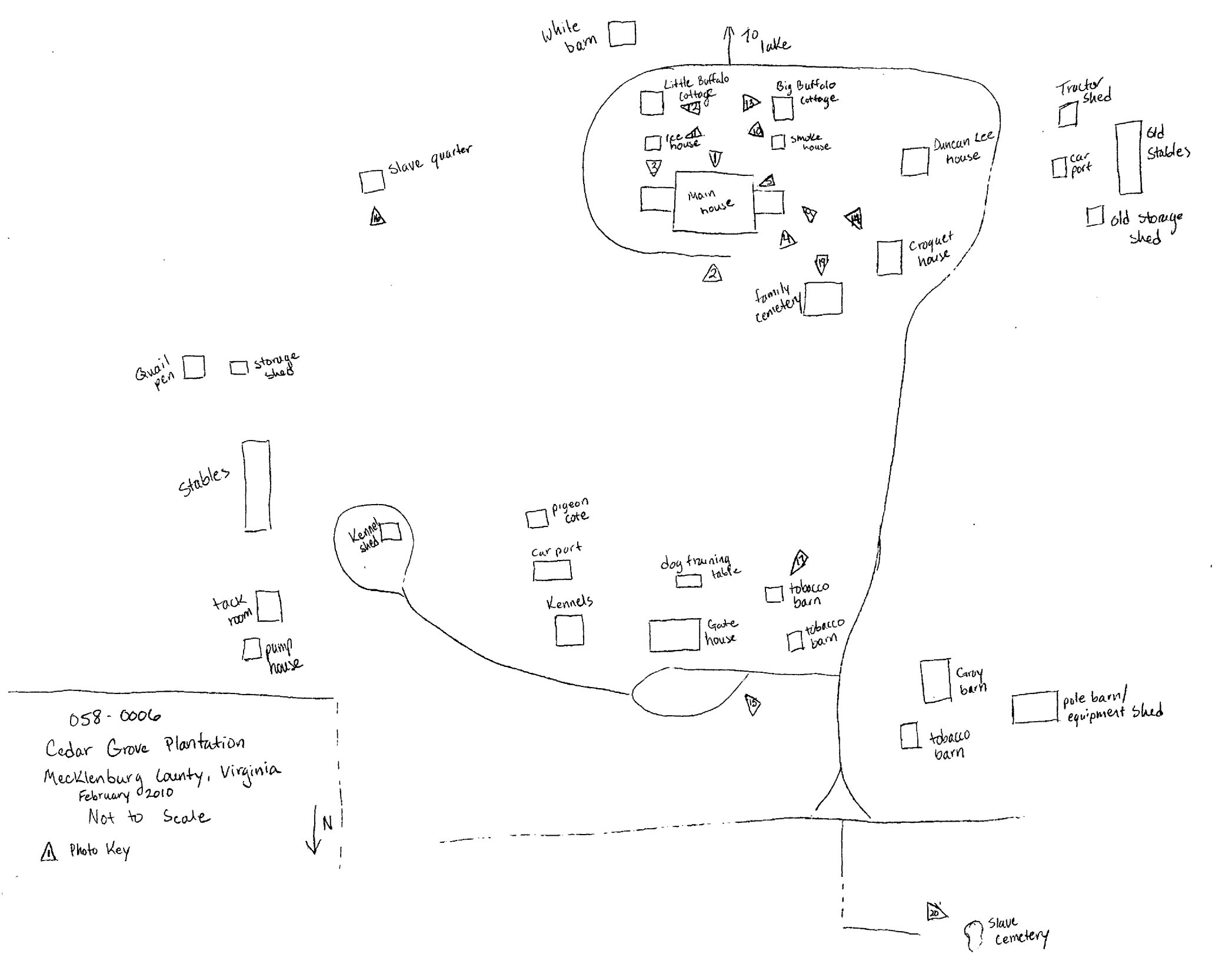
16 of 20. Slave quarters.

17 of 20. Tobacco barn.

18 of 20. Main staircase.

19 of 20. Family cemetery.

20 of 20. Slave cemetery.


White barn
To lake
Little Buffalo cottage
Big Buffalo cottage
Ice house
smoke house
Duncan Lee house
Tractor Shed
car port
Old Stables
old storage shed
slave quarter
main house
croquet house
family cemetery
Quail pen
storage shed
Stables
Kennel shed
pigeon cote
car port
dog training table
tobacco barn
Kennels
Gate house
tobacco barn
tack room
pump house
Carey barn
pole barn/ equipment shed
tobacco barn
Slave cemetery
058-0006
Cedar Grove Plantation
Mecklenburg County, Virginia
February 2010
Not to Scale
N
Photo Key