

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**  
Office of Archives and History  
Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**Nicholas and Lucretia Thompson House**

Leasburg, Caswell County, CS0458, Listed 12/8/2022

Nomination by Susan and Dwight Bellinger

Photographs by Susan and Dwight Bellinger, September 2022



South facade, camera facing north



East facade, camera facing west

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.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Thompson, Nicholas and Lucretia, House

Other names/site number: Thompson, Nicholas, House; Thompson, Nicholas and Lucretia  
Van Hook Thompson, House

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: 7846 US Hwy 158 East

City or town: Leasburg State: NC County: Caswell

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

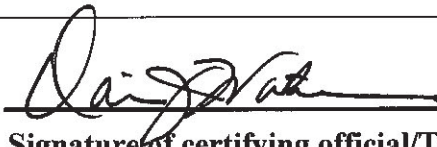
I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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 \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D



Signature of certifying official/Title:

10/25/22

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<hr/>	
<b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Title :</b>	<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

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#### 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

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**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>6</u>	<u>                    </u>	buildings
<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	objects
<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
DOMESTIC/secondary structures  
COMMERCIAL/business

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
DOMESTIC/secondary structures

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal  
MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation/STONE/granite  
Walls/WOOD/weatherboard  
Roof/METAL/steel  
Roof/SYNTHETICS/fiberglass  
Other/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.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The Nicholas and Lucretia Thompson House is located in Leasburg, a rural community in eastern Caswell County, North Carolina. The house evolved from a finely finished early-nineteenth-century house with a locally specific plan into what architectural historian Ruth Little-Stokes described as a “handsome Boom Era [1840-1860] type Greek Revival two-story frame house with exterior end brick chimneys, double door entrance, one-story hip roofed Doric entrance porch.”<sup>1</sup> The site also retains well-preserved outbuildings: an office, smokehouse, meat storage house, slave quarter and kitchen, and a tanner’s shop. Aside from the addition of bathrooms in a porch enclosure (a traditional location for such), kitchen fixtures, and modern utilities, the house has changed very little since the mid-nineteenth century. The outbuildings have been stabilized, but otherwise remain unchanged.

### Description

The Nicholas and Lucretia Thompson House is in a rural area of gently rolling terrain with expanses of fields and occasional steep drops to creeks. The house sits on 6.27 acres of lawn and

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<sup>1</sup> Ruth Little-Stokes, *An Inventory of Historic Architecture Caswell County, North Carolina*, Caswell County Historical Association, Inc., 1979, p. 181.

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trees on the eastern edge of Leasburg, in Caswell County, North Carolina. It is bounded by three roads: Old Durham Road to the south, Olive Hill Church Road to the west and U.S. Highway 158 to the north. The house faces south onto Old Durham Road, which was the community's main east-west road from the mid-nineteenth century until Highway 158 was constructed in the early 1930s on the north side of the property. Access to the property is from Highway 158 via an unpaved driveway. Trees screen the buildings from all three roads and the property to the east.

Leasburg has been described in the following manner:

Leasburg shared in the antebellum prosperity of the 1830-1861 Boom Era in Caswell County. It was a regional center of education, had a number of mills and tobacco factories, a race track, taverns, a tannery, a tailor, a carriagemaker, cotton gins, a brickyard, and substantial trade based upon the tobacco economy of the surrounding area. Many fine homes were built by the wealthy businessmen and land owners. However, like all of Caswell County, Leasburg, was devastated by the Civil War. . . . It had no geographical reason for being, not having a railroad, a major stream, or roads of any regional significance. Competition from nearby Durham doomed Leasburg's tobacco factories, and its best and brightest departed for opportunities elsewhere. *Sweet Leasburg*, no longer was a trading center, reverting to a small sleepy Southern town, but one with a proud history.<sup>2</sup>

That history is reflected in the architecture and history of the Nicholas and Lucretia Thompson House: built in the Federal era and expanded with the Thompson family's prosperity in the mid-nineteenth century. Little-Stokes noted in her architectural survey of the county in the 1970s that in Leasburg, "almost all of the older houses were either remodeled or enlarged during this period" of 1840 to 1860.<sup>3</sup> The house is a two-story, frame dwelling with a slight T-shaped footprint composed of a ca.1810 Federal-style wing that now comprises most of the rear of the house and a late 1850s Greek Revival-style addition that includes the primary elevation. The house is surrounded on three sides by domestic outbuildings, all but one built in the nineteenth century. This unusually complete collection of outbuildings attests to the self-sufficient life of the county's planter-merchants. At the northeast corner of the house, in a row, are the kitchen-slave quarters, smokehouse, and meat storage house. At the northwest corner is the tanner's shop facing onto Olive Hill Church Road. At the southwest corner is an office and at the southeast corner are a pole barn and corn crib. A utility easement was granted to Carolina Power and Light in 1952 on the north side of the property running parallel to highway 158.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Caswell County Historical Association. "Leasburg, Historical Sketch, Sweet Leasburg," <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~nccha/memoranda/leasburg.html> (accessed 12/23/2021).

<sup>3</sup> Little-Stokes, p. 180.

<sup>4</sup> Caswell County, North Carolina, Deed Book 115, page 161.

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## House

### Overview

The Nicholas and Lucretia Thompson House is a two-story early nineteenth-century Federal style frame house to which a two-story Greek Revival addition was made in the mid-nineteenth century. The original house faced west to Olive Hill Church Road and apparently had a saltbox profile with the full two-story section containing one room upstairs and one room down, and the rear shed housing two more rooms, one above the other, with the upper room in the back having a lower floor than the front room and a sloping ceiling.

To the south, gable-end side of this earlier house, a Greek Revival I-house in a center-hall plan was added in the late 1850s. The plan turned the widest elevation to the public and allowed the owners to apply as much or as little ornament as they could afford or wanted. This was a far less modest approach from the early nineteenth-century plan this house began with in which the narrowest façade faced the public. The I-house addition created a new front elevation on the south side of the house. On the north side of the original saltbox, an early nineteenth-century one-story wing is connected to the house via an enclosed porch or breezeway that has shed additions on its east and west sides. All three main sections of the house are of heavy frame construction. The builders are unknown.

### Exterior

The present-day main facade is the south elevation of the Greek Revival I-house addition under a low pedimented side-gable roof (Photo 1). This section is three bays wide with a central front door and large six-over-six sash windows. A one-story, single-bay Doric portico with a hip roof shelters the front door and features pairs of slightly tapered box posts and two pilasters, all with simple moldings at bases and capitals. Flushboard sheathing covers the wall between the pilasters and front door; the rest of the house is sheathed in plain weatherboards except for the tympanum of each pediment, which also is flush-sheathed. Twenty-one-light sidelights flank the door. There is no transom. Each leaf of the double-leaf door contains a long single Greek Revival panel and is fronted by an aluminum storm door. A plain frieze encircles the two-story sections of the house, and the deep eaves are finished with flat boards with rounded edges that create shallow, concentric steps on the soffit. On the east and west gable ends of the I-house addition, the exterior end chimneys pierce the cornice before rising through the apex. Each exterior chimney is single-stepped-shouldered, laid in common bond with pencil mortar joints. On the north (rear) side of the addition, a door with a Greek Revival surround leads to the east room from the porch of the Federal section. There is one second-story window on this side, but the sloping roof of the Federal portion is so close to the window that it intersects the west side of the window surround, preventing placement of a shutter here.

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When the Greek Revival addition was made to the side elevation of the original house, the original house became a one-and-a-half- to two-story rear ell (Photo 2), with the saltbox's roof slope remaining visible on the east side (Photo 4). The remodeling of the original house entailed the reworking of the roof and cornice at the full two-story west end to be identical to the roof of the addition as well as the probable replacement of a front door in the west elevation and the window directly above with the current six-over-six double-hung Greek Revival-style windows, creating the present-day west elevation of the original building. On its east and upper north elevations, very little seems to have changed except for the creation of the pediment. The north elevation retains a nine-over-nine double-hung sash window at the west side and a six-over-nine window on the east side. The east elevation retains a nine-light window in the half-height wall above the shed porch roof and a four-light transom above the entrance. The door and its surround have been replaced with a twentieth-century French door in a plain surround. This elevation's porch, probably the original back porch of the saltbox, still features Federal-era chamfered posts with lamb's tongues.

On the original saltbox's north elevation, a porch or breezeway connecting the one-story ell was enclosed at an unknown date and shed rooms were added to its east and west sides in the twentieth century. The east side of the east shed has a single window and the north and west sides of the west shed have banks of six-over-six double-hung sash windows.

The one-story ell is approximately centered on the north elevation of the original house.<sup>5</sup> The ell has a boxed cornice and flush eaves, a four-over-four Federal style-window on the west side, and two six-over-six windows on the east side that are recent replacements. To the left of the four-over-four window on the west wall, cuts in the weatherboards indicate an earlier opening, apparently a door. The rear of the kitchen facing north has no windows but there is evidence of an attic opening (photo 3). An exterior gable-end brick flue vents a wood stove pipe. The floor joists are log.

The house stands on a stone foundation. There is a small basement, accessed from storm cellar doors against the east porch, that extends under the Greek Revival section. It was used for food storage and now houses a modern furnace, water heater and well pressure tank. Standing-seam metal roofing covers the two-story sections and was installed around 2000, replacing an older standing-seam roof. The one-story sections are roofed with fiberglass shingles. Plain weatherboards cover the exterior. Plain corner boards finish the walls, and windows and the main entrance feature simple Greek Revival trim with plain corner blocks. All shutters have operable wooden louvers.

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<sup>5</sup> Little is known about the early history of this wing and the physical evidence provides few clues to its date (e.g., there is no indication that it ever had a fireplace) beyond construction in the early nineteenth century or perhaps earlier. Like the tanner's shop, it is believed to have been on the property when Nicholas Thompson purchased it prior to 1810. The finish of the breezeway wall of the Federal-era house indicates that it originally was an open porch.



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## Interior

The interior is organized in four sections. Moving from the present-day front, the house is a center-hall, Greek Revival I-house. Behind that is a Federal section that likely faced west with two rooms on each floor, one behind the other on either side of a central chimney. Behind that section, an enclosed porch, or breezeway, connects to a rear kitchen ell. Mantelpieces remain in place at each of the fireplaces, which have shallow-draw fire boxes. All walls are plaster over wood lath.

### Greek Revival Wing

The four Greek Revival rooms have high ceilings (ten-foot downstairs and nine-foot upstairs) and pine floors. The interior of the Greek Revival addition has period woodwork throughout. Door and window surrounds are symmetrically fluted with simple square corner blocks and baseboards are tall and molded. Beneath each window there is a recessed-flat-panel apron. The mantelpieces, all simple, well executed Greek Revival designs with Doric pilasters, plain friezes, and pointed arch shelf, vary slightly from room to room. The interior and exterior doors (all two-panel, including the short door to the closet under the stairs) have dead bolt rim locks. The front door rim lock was manufactured by Davenport Mallory & Co. sometime between 1858 and 1864. The remaining rim locks in the Greek Revival section were manufactured by Branford Lock Works and date from the mid-1860s.<sup>6</sup> The open string stair begins at the back of the hall, rising along the east wall to a landing illuminated by a window and turning 180 degrees to a short flight to the upper hall. The landing is immediately above the front doors so there is no room for the top piece of the surround. The newel post at the bottom of the stairs is an octagonal column while the newel posts at each end of the landing and at the top of the stairs are more slender, smooth, and slightly tapered. Each newel post is surmounted by a simple round flat capital member and slender turned balusters carry a molded railing.

A two-panel door on the west side of the entry hall leads to the living room. This room features a full-height, square-headed alcove on the south side of the fireplace and a window on the other side (Photo 5). The pilasters and architrave of the alcove surround mimic the mantelpiece, which features plain pilasters rising from molded bases to simple molding from which a shallow arch springs at the base of a plain architrave. Another window faces south. A double-leaf door, with each leaf having a single panel, connects the living room to the Federal-era dining room. Another Greek Revival door opens from the back of the center hall to the dining room. The room on the east side of the entry hall is referred to as the "Music Room" because Ella Thompson, Nicholas's granddaughter who previously lived here, taught music lessons in this

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<sup>6</sup> The front door rim lock has the DM&Co maker's mark, indicating manufacture between 1858 and 1864. Other examples were found on the Historic Houseparts website (<https://www.historichouseparts.com/antique-mallory-and-wheeler-interior-mortise-lock-1.html>, accessed 3 August 2020). Information on Branford Lock Works was found at Antique Door Knobs, [https://www.antiquedoorknobs.us/uploads/7/3/6/9/73695709/203\\_may-jun\\_2017.pdf](https://www.antiquedoorknobs.us/uploads/7/3/6/9/73695709/203_may-jun_2017.pdf), accessed 23 December 2021.

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room (Photo 6). It has an original closet next to the fireplace on the south side, a window facing south (the front of the house), a window next to the chimney facing east and a door leading to the east porch on the north side. Here, the mantelpiece has pilasters that continue to the shelf to flank the architrave and moldings are more robust than those of the living room mantelpiece.

The upstairs of the Greek Revival wing comprises a center hall and two bedrooms, each with original closets next to the fireplaces. The west bedroom (Photo 9) has two windows, one facing south and one facing west next to the fireplace. The mantelpiece pilasters are three-part with cyma recta molding. The east bedroom also has two windows, one facing south and one facing north, and the mantelpiece features fluted pilasters. A ceiling hatch in the hall, close to the door to the east bedroom, provided access to the unfinished attic.

### Federal-Era Section

The Federal-era portion of the house consists of four rooms, two downstairs and two upstairs. The walls are plaster on lath, the floors are pine, and the ceilings are painted wooden boards, except for the east upstairs bedroom where drywall with a skim coating of plaster was applied to the wood ceiling, most likely in the late 1970s or early 1980s. Each of the four rooms has a fireplace on the interior chimney. The combination of Federal and Greek Revival period mantelpieces and the variety of Greek Revival window and door surrounds indicate that the older section was partially modernized over time, probably up to and including when the Greek Revival addition was built. Unless otherwise noted, door and window surrounds are Greek Revival with a faceted center strip and plain corner blocks and all windows have a recessed-flat-panel apron. The rim locks on the doors in this section do not have identifying manufacturing marks and may be older than those in the Greek Revival section.

The west downstairs room is currently the dining room, with high (ten-and-a-half feet) ceilings (Photo 7). As the likely front room of the original saltbox, it probably served as the main formal room before the Greek Revival addition was built. There are two windows in this room, one facing west (the six-over-six double-hung that likely replaced the original main entrance) and the other an original nine-over-nine double-hung window facing north onto the west shed addition to the enclosed porch. A six-panel Federal-era door, thinner than the Greek Revival doors, opens onto the enclosed porch. On the south side of this room, double doors, previously described, connect to the living room in the Greek Revival addition. The Federal-style mantelpiece is the most elaborate in the house, consisting of pairs of reeded colonnettes rising to a reeded, rectilinear capital flanking an entablature featuring a band of reeding and plain ogee beneath a molded shelf. Above the colonnettes, a block decorated with reeding in an anthemion motif topped by the same bands of reeding and ogee molding as the entablature supports the shelf. On the north (left) side of the fireplace, a built-in cupboard has double, multi-paned doors at the upper section and double flat-panel doors below. The walls have been papered.

Originally there would have been a connecting door between the two downstairs rooms on one side of the chimney. As the Greek Revival surround of the cupboard suggests that it was not

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original, it may have been installed in place of a doorway when the I-house wing was added. The painted plaster on the wall behind the cupboard, in the east room, shows no evidence of a door, however, and further investigation is needed to determine on which side of the chimney the connecting door was located.

The east downstairs room currently houses the owners' loom and therefore is referred to as the loom room or den. The mantelpiece in this room is similar to the Greek Revival mantelpieces in the front of the house, with plain pilasters and architrave. On the south (left) side of the fireplace is a closet with a six-panel door that is similar to that of the Federal door in the dining room although the interior surface of this door is flat. A six-panel door on the north side, similar to the closet door, accesses the enclosed breezeway. Both of these doors, as well as the two-panel Greek Revival door on the south wall to the music room, are in heavily molded Greek Revival surrounds with gently rounded convex and concave elements and plain corner blocks. A double door (previously described) in a post-and-lintel surround of plain boards provides access to the one-story porch on the east side of the house. A later doorway with plain board surround leads to the bathroom addition at the northeast corner of this section of the house. Between the bathroom door and the door to the enclosed breezeway, evidence of another, early doorway can be seen in the plaster. The ceiling in the loom room is not as high (eight-and-a-half feet) as the dining room ceiling because the floor above is lower than the other second-story floors. A steep, partially enclosed winder stair in the southeast corner leads to the room above. Three steps lead to a short, six-panel door with blunt-tipped screws in the hinges. Beyond the door, the steps turn ninety degrees before continuing in a straight run to the second floor. There is a small closet under the stairs with a four-panel Federal door.

The west upstairs room, above the dining room, is a bedroom with eight-and-a-half-foot-tall ceiling (Photo 8). A Greek Revival window (six-over-six) faces west and a Federal window (nine-over-nine) faces north. The room is accessed through a two-panel door to the upstairs hall of the Greek Revival addition. The floor of this room is one step (seven inches) higher than the Greek Revival block. The Federal-style mantelpiece is a plainer version of the Federal mantelpiece in the dining room, with fluted pilasters topped by two rows of gouging instead of pairs of reeded colonnettes. There is an original closet with a six-panel Federal door on the north side of the fireplace and two additional modern closets, added probably in the 1970s, flanking the west window.

The east upstairs room, referred to as the nursery, has a ceiling reflecting the saltbox roofline, sloping from eight-and-a-half feet at the fireplace to four-and-a-half feet at the east window. The floor in this room is three steps (twenty inches) lower than the Greek Revival floor, which makes it four steps lower than the west Federal room on the other side of the chimney. Access to this room is by the enclosed staircase and by a door to the upstairs hall of the Greek Revival addition. At the top of the stairs is a newel post with a flat surface for a candle stand. It appears that access to the I-house addition from this room was made after the mid-nineteenth century as the door has four panels and the steps up to the I-house are removable and not original. The two windows in this room are not double-hung but are side-hinged and open into the room; they are similar in

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construction to the Federal nine-over-nine windows in the dining room and bedroom. The north window is six-over-nine with each sash side-hinged; the east window is a single, side-hinged, nine-pane sash. Both have plain board surrounds with plain corner blocks. The north window has a recessed flat-panel apron and the small east window has a plain board apron. The Federal-style mantelpiece is similar to but slightly plainer than the dining room mantelpiece, with single fluted colonnettes and a shorter entablature without the anthemion motifs. As in the west bedroom, there is an original closet on the north side of the fireplace with a Federal six-panel; a modern closet, probably added in the 1970s, is on the other side of the fireplace.

It is not clear how the west upstairs bedroom was accessed prior to the Greek Revival addition as currently there is no direct connection between the two bedrooms. There may be evidence of a door on the south side of the chimney, not yet detected under the plaster. Also, it is possible that the staircase was relocated at an early date as the northwest corners of the loom room and in the nursery above it show evidence of replacement boards in the ceiling and floor, respectively.

#### One-Story Ell, Breezeway, and Shed Additions

The one-story ell is accessed, one step down, from the enclosed porch. The ceiling height is seven feet with exposed beams showing evidence of plaster and lath. The four-over-four window on the west wall has a Federal two-part surround, with the outer band mitered and the inner band post-and-lintel. The door to the enclosed porch has a Federal mitered three-part surround. This door has five panels. Mid-twentieth-century wood cabinets and sink line the east wall with the double six-over-six windows. On the north wall a tall, round pipe connects a wood stove to the exterior flue. Wallpaper covers the walls.

In the connecting breezeway, the north and south walls retain their former exterior treatments. The Greek Revival treatment of the north wall of the Federal section, with Greek Revival surrounds at the single doors leading to the dining room and loom room and wide flush wallboards identical to the treatment of the wall under the south porch, indicate that the space was an open porch when the I-house wing was built. The surround at the doorway to the kitchen is post-and-lintel of plain boards. At an undetermined date, the one-story ell was connected to the breezeway and at that time or later the breezeway was enclosed, apparently in the twentieth century, and extended with a shed wing on the west side. On the east side of the enclosed breezeway, small shed additions containing two bathrooms, one accessed from the enclosed breezeway and the other from the loom room, also were built. The west extension enlarged the breezeway to create a family room. Here, weatherboards and a nine-over-nine window in a Greek Revival surround remain on the south wall and the west and north walls are mostly filled with banks of six-over-six windows. The bathrooms have early to mid-twentieth-century fixtures.

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## **Outbuildings**

### Tanner's Shop (Photo 10), early nineteenth century: Contributing Building

This early nineteenth-century frame structure, located west of the main house, consists of one room and a loft accessed via a boxed staircase. The building may have been on the property with it was purchased by Nicholas Thompson in the first decade of the nineteenth century. The structure is approximately 18' x 18'. The exterior is finished with a boxed cornice and flush gable ends. Ghost marks suggest the twentieth-century concrete block flue replaced a single or double-shouldered chimney. It has two six-over-six windows (one facing west and one east), a metal roof, and two exterior doors. One of the exterior doors faces west onto Olive Hill Church Road (SR1701). This door has two panels and is similar to the Greek Revival doors in the main house. This road was part of the main east-west road in the mid-nineteenth century and was most likely the main public entrance for the shop. The other exterior door is on the south side next to the fireplace. This door is board and batten. The foundation is rock and is intact except for a large section on the north side that has collapsed. The sills are twelve-by-twelve timbers. In 2020 the owners replaced the east and west sills with treated lumber. The original hand-hewn floor joists have been left in place although in poor condition. Additional floor joists were added to provide structural support. Wide flush boards placed horizontally sheathe the interior. The walls were once wallpapered and scraps of it and a border are visible. A very plain board mantelpiece fronts the fireplace. An enclosed winder staircase occupies the northeast corner of the room. Several rough wooden posts located on the interior of the first floor and basement have been added to stabilize the structure. The unfinished loft has exposed roof rafters. A trap door that lifts out of place gives access to the dirt basement.

### Law Office (Photo 11), ca. 1860: Contributing Building

This is a frame, hip-roofed building with one room on either side of an interior stone chimney with brick stack. The structure is approximately 12' x 30'. The foundation is cement block, date unknown. The roof is stamped metal. The north elevation features a central entrance that opens into a small foyer, which accesses either room. The front door is modern with nine glass panes above two panels. A second entrance with a two-panel Greek Revival door occupies the west elevation, facing Olive Hill Church Road, and this was probably the primary public entrance for the law office. Construction techniques and trim suggest a construction date contemporary with the main house's Greek Revival addition. Each room has two six-over-six double-hung windows and a fireplace with a simple Greek Revival mantelpiece with slightly tapered pilasters. The interior foyer doors are board and batten. Exterior surrounds are plain post-and-lintel and interior surrounds are shouldered post-and-lintel, also of plain boards. The walls and ceiling are plaster on lath.

### Kitchen/Slave Quarters (Photo 12), early nineteenth century: Contributing Building

This heavy timber-frame building is approximately 18' x 33' with weatherboard siding, flush gables, and a boxed cornice. It is a one-and-a-half-story, side-gable building with a central brick chimney. There are three first-story window openings downstairs and a fourth one blocked by a

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four-seat privy addition on the east end. The east section has a window opening in the north wall that has a wooden shutter and a window in the east wall blocked by the privy. The west section also has two windows openings, one in the north wall that no longer has its wooden shutter and one in the west wall that has a six-over six window that has lost its glass and some muntins. There is a small window opening in each gable end of the loft; window sash is missing from both. The privy addition (date unknown) has an entrance on its south side. The privy is not built over a dug pit; instead, it sits at ground level. The original, moveable exterior lower sidewall panel that allowed for cleaning is missing. The current wide entrances to each side, each now with a pair of vertical-board doors, are not original and allowed the building to be used as a garage in the twentieth century. It is unclear when these larger openings were created, but the mortise sizes in the overhead beam show the location of original single doors. Both the kitchen/slave quarters and privy addition have metal roofs.

On the interior, a massive stone chimney, partially rebuilt in brick, is the dominant feature, serving a large fireplace on its east and west sides. Partition walls of flush boards extend from either side of the chimney (vertical boards on the north side and horizontal boards on the south side) to separate the two rooms. Most of the chimney projects into the east room. The perimeter walls of this room are not sheathed; much of the wood floor remains. A fixed wooden ladder rising north to south along the east side of the partition wall north of the chimney accesses the full-length, unfinished loft. The west room has wide tongue-in-groove flush boards placed horizontally that sheathe the north and west walls. Here, the ceiling beams are blackened, perhaps indicating that this room, closer to the house, was used for cooking. The wooden floor has deteriorated on this side.

The building has been stabilized by replacing the sills on the west and north side, sistering some headers on the southwest and north sides, and sistering some of the studs on the north side. Date of construction is unknown but may be contemporary with the original section of the house. This building has been consistently called a kitchen/quarter combination, with the assumption being that one room and the loft were for living and the other room for the kitchen, although both sections were very likely used for sleeping as it is unlikely that a kitchen space would have been reserved entirely for cooking.

#### Smoke House (Photo 12), 1834: Contributing Building

The neatly finished, one-story, side-gable smokehouse has flush gable ends and a boxed cornice. There is one entrance door and a rock step. The roof is metal and the floor wood. The structure is 10' x10'. The frame structure's interior has writing on one wall that is now fading "This house built for Nicholas Thompson by Reubin Walton....May1834....\$16.25". Much of the interior is blackened and the wood has been roughened by salting.

#### Meat Storage/Storage Building (Photo 12), 1834: Contributing Building

The frame one-story, two-room building is 10' by 16', has two exterior board-and-batten doors in the middle of the south elevation, one for each room, and has a full-length loft. The only

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other opening is a very small four-pane window (1'5" x 1'9") in the west gable end. Next to this window, at the south edge of the wall, is a narrow brick flue that was likely added in the twentieth century when the west room was converted to a workshop. The roof is metal. The interior is unfinished. A fixed wooden ladder accesses the loft from the east room. The similarity in form and construction strongly suggest that it was erected at the same time as the Smoke House, probably by the same builder.

Well House, early nineteenth century with later modifications: Contributing Structure

The well house consists of a canopy of four posts supporting a gable, metal roof sheltering a hand-dug well about 30-40 feet deep and lined with stone. The well is three feet in diameter. Date of construction of the canopy is unknown, although the well itself is likely early. The circular area surrounding the well opening has been covered with concrete, leaving a square area of approximately two by two-and-a-half feet topped by a wooden frame box with a rope pulley system for drawing water. Adjacent to this is a small concrete-veneered brick structure twenty-eight by thirty inches that may have housed a well pump. A submersion well pump is now installed.

Corn Crib, antebellum: Contributing Structure

This is log construction with a metal roof and a frame shed attachment. A bracketed pent roof extends across the north gable end. The whole structure is approximately 10' X 16'. Precise construction date is unknown, but the diamond notching, boxed cornice, and flush gable end suggest an antebellum construction date.

Tractor/Car Shed, 1996: Non-contributing Structure

Pole shed with metal roof

There are written records that a barn was located near the corn crib.<sup>7</sup> The barn of undetermined age was described in the 1970s as being built of hand-hewn timbers with a gable roof which extended out over shed rooms along both flanks. It is unclear when this structure was lost, although it may have been in the late 1970s.

## **Integrity Statement**

The Nicholas and Lucretia Thompson House possesses the qualities of historic integrity—location, setting, feeling, association, design, materials, and workmanship—required for National Register designation. The dwelling maintains integrity of location as it stands on its original site. The property is located on the edge of town and the surrounding 6.27 acres and outbuildings create a setting that maintains the integrity of the feeling and setting of a dwelling and commercial complex within a rural settlement. The town of Leasburg is still a small southern village with many of the original homes from the early and mid-nineteenth century.

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<sup>7</sup> Little-Stokes, p. 180.

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The Nicholas and Lucretia Thompson House and outbuildings also retain integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The dwelling has remained remarkably unaltered since ca. 1860. Elements including detailed Federal mantelpieces with reeding and six-panel doors, plain but robust Greek Revival mantels and two-panel doors, symmetrical fenestration, classically inspired front portico, and pedimented gable ends manifest Federal era and Greek Revival aesthetics. Interior finishes such as plaster walls and ceilings, plank ceilings in the earlier spaces, simple molding, staircases, door and window surrounds, and tongue-and-groove pine floors overall are in excellent condition, requiring only cosmetic repairs in certain rooms.

The rare survival of the property's six original nineteenth-century outbuildings is due to the care shown by Nicholas and Lucretia Thompson and their descendants who lived and worked on the property for 160 years, until 1970. The main changes to the outbuildings are the replacement of many of the rotting sills and some of the weatherboard siding.

The Thompsons farmed several hundred acres, much of it part of the homeplace. As the residual, primarily residential parcel, the nominated property more closely retains its association with antebellum domestic life and antebellum commerce where business was often conducted at the tradesman or professional's home.

### **Statement of Archaeological Potential**

The Nicholas and Lucretia Thompson House is closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological deposits and remnant landscape features such as filled-in privies and wells, roadbeds and paths, planting beds and gardens, fence lines, and accumulated debris from farming and domestic activities can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the property. Other remains which may be present include deposits associated with the first Caswell County courthouse and an early nineteenth-century tavern that were located on the property. Information concerning social standing and mobility, the character of daily life in nineteenth-century Leasburg, the operation of Nicholas Thompson's saddler's shop, the material culture of Thompson's enslaved laborers, as well as structural details and landscape use, can be obtained from the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the property. At this time no investigation has been done to document these remains, but it is likely that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.



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## 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.
- 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

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

ca. 1810-ca. 1860

**Significant Dates**

ca. 1810

ca. 1860

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Watson, Reubin--smokehouse

\_\_\_\_\_

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**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 Nicholas and Lucretia Thompson House is significant under Criteria C because its architecture expresses the history of the county's economic fortunes and the changes in taste and needs of the occupants. The oldest section of the house was built for the Thompsons around 1810 in the locally popular two-story, one-room-wide form that faced the tall, narrow elevation to the public and used a plan with no interior hallways. By the 1850s, the county's white farmers were experiencing an incredible tobacco-fueled economic boom. Tastes changed rapidly, and the forty-year-old house would have been outdated and far too modest for a prospering family. Thus, the family added an I-house with a center hall to create a fashionably wide façade and a plan that allowed for greater control of people into and through the interior. The Thompsons' choice about what they built and when make the house an excellent representative of Caswell County's successful white property owners' experiences in the first half of the nineteenth century. Their house, almost entirely unaltered since the mid-nineteenth century expansion, is an intact example of typical architectural tastes from the early and mid-nineteenth century, showing the prevailing preference for a modest yet fashionably appointed home that the next generation maintained and expanded, rather than building an entirely new house. The site's collection of nineteenth-century outbuildings completes the architectural representation of the county's antebellum history. A tanner's shop is contemporary with the original portion of the house and the kitchen/slave quarters appears to have been built about the same time or shortly thereafter. As Nicholas Thompson prospered, he built neat, well-constructed outbuildings, and his son George constructed his own office at the site when he acquired the property following his mother's death in 1858. The house and outbuildings have undergone very few alterations since ca. 1860 and retain very good integrity from that period. That the family did not make additional changes after the Civil War also conveys the county's stagnation as Caswell County struggled to regain economic footing. Of the notable number of surviving historic outbuildings, three are domestic in nature and only the corn crib may have had a direct association with agriculture. The period of significance begins at ca. 1810 with the construction of the earliest part of the house and ends ca. 1860, with the construction of the law office.

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

### Historical Background

Caswell County was established in 1777 and present-day Leasburg became the county seat due to its location in the center of the county. When Leasburg was formally incorporated in 1788, one hundred acres had already been laid off into streets and sixty-two lots by William Lea

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and Nicholas Delone.<sup>8</sup> The Caswell County Courthouse was constructed in 1784 and opened in 1785.<sup>9</sup> When Person County was created to the east in 1792, the Caswell County seat was moved to the county's new center, Yanceyville.

In the first decade of the nineteenth century, Nicholas Thompson (1781-1857), originally of Orange County, North Carolina, purchased acreage in Caswell County, beginning with 74 acres in 1803.<sup>10</sup> In 1804, he married Lucretia Van Hook (1788-1858), the daughter of Jacob Van Hook and Nancy Jones, members of a wealthy local family.<sup>11</sup> The next year Thompson purchased town lots 43-46 along with the outlots of 10.5 acres each and in 1808 lots 51 and 52 with outlots of 3 acres each.<sup>12</sup>

Thompson farmed and ran a tannery on nearby Cobb Creek. He made and sold saddles, reins, etc. from a tannery shop, facing the main street, that he either built or acquired.<sup>13</sup> Using enslaved labor, he accumulated wealth farming, tanning, and making harnesses and other leather goods, and in the early nineteenth-century he commissioned construction of a finely finished house.<sup>14</sup> The precise date of construction is uncertain. One source dates the house to 1810 and another to 1814.<sup>15</sup>

The house appears to have fronted Mount Olive Church Road. It was two stories tall and a single room wide, making it a tall, narrow house. Behind the front room of each story was another room, and a saltbox roof covered the entire composition. The plan deemphasized the house's size by placing the two rooms of each story one behind the other rather than using a

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<sup>8</sup> William S. Powell, *When the Past Refused to Die; A History of Caswell County 1777-1977*, Moore Publishing Company, Durham, NC 1977, pp. 94-95. It is unfortunate that the original town plan no longer exists and is believed to have been discarded in the 1930s. See Thompson, Ella Graves, "A History of Leasburg With Personal Recollections," typescript, 1960, p.2, <https://ncccha.org/pdf/historyofleasburg.pdf> (accessed 23 December 2021).

<sup>9</sup> Powell, p 92.

<sup>10</sup> Kendall, Katherine, *Caswell County, North Carolina Deed Books, 1777-1817*, p. 245 [Deed Book N. page.117 Lewis Evans to Nicholas Thompson. 74A, \$296. 28 Dec 1803].

<sup>11</sup> Whitlow, Jeannine D. *The Heritage of Caswell County, North Carolina*. Hunter Publishing Co., Winston-Salem, NC, 1985, pp 541-2; and 1800 US Federal Census, Hillsborough, North Carolina, Series M32, Roll 32, p. 218, image 227, Family History Library Film 337908.

<sup>12</sup> Kendall, *Caswell County, North Carolina Deed Books, 1777-1817*, p. 259 [Deed Book O, pp.63-64. William Lea Jun. to Nicholas Thompson. 4 lots in town of Leasburg and out lots. 30 Apr 1805] and p. 288 [Deed Book P, pp 256-7, lots 51 & 52, 1808].

<sup>13</sup> Thompson, p. 3.

<sup>14</sup> Whitlow, p. 542; and Family Papers, Azariah Graves Thompson Papers, MC 00249, Special Collections Research Center, North Carolina State University Libraries, Raleigh, NC, unnumbered p. 8.

<sup>15</sup> NC Caswell County Historical Association, Caswell Historical Association Blog, "Nicholas Thompson House (Leasburg, North Carolina)," <http://ncccha.blogspot.com/2018/03/nicholas-thompson-house-leasburg-north.html> (accessed 30 August 2022); and Family Papers, *Azariah Graves Thompson Papers*, unnumbered p. 16.

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wider hall-parlor or center-hall plan with the rooms side-by-side. A separate kitchen building, probably the extant kitchen/slave quarters, stood away from the house.<sup>16</sup>

It is generally acknowledged that the Nicholas and Lucretia Thompson property was the original location of the Caswell County Courthouse. Bessie Thompson, granddaughter of Nicholas and Lucretia Thompson, recollected in 1939 that Caswell County's first courthouse stood in the front yard of her home.<sup>17</sup> Another granddaughter, Ella Graves Thompson, recalled playing on the courthouse foundations, but none are visible now.<sup>18</sup> There is reference that boards and doors from the Courthouse may have been used in the construction of the main house or law office.<sup>19</sup> A tavern, said to have been built in 1809 based on a dated terracotta plaque in the chimney, stood at the property's northwest corner.<sup>20</sup> Both the courthouse and tavern are gone now, but they would have made Thompson's corner a hive of commerce, even though the county's governance was no longer centered in Leasburg.<sup>21</sup>

Throughout his productive life, Nicholas Thompson worked as a tanner, harness maker, businessman, and farmer. Records show that a saddlers shop already existed in Leasburg in 1810 and it likely was Thompson's since there is an 1814 reference to Nicholas Thompson owning a saddler shop in this location, apparently the current structure.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> It has been proposed that the current one-story wing attached to the rear of the house and likely dating to the early nineteenth century was the kitchen, but it is very altered, has lost any evidence it may have had of a chimney, and appears to have been attached to the house at about the time the I-house addition was built.

<sup>17</sup> Cannon, John W. *Among Our Neighbors: Leasburg a Good Place In Which to Live*. Greensboro, N.C. Daily News, Wednesday, September 27, 1939. [clipping located in Family Papers, *Azariah Graves Thompson Papers*, p. 49]

<sup>18</sup> NC Caswell County Historical Association, Caswell Historical Association Blog, "Nicholas Thompson House (Leasburg, North Carolina)." Wednesday March 7, 2018. <http://ncccha.blogspot.com/2018/03/nicholas-thompson-house-leasburg-north.html> (accessed 8 September 2022).

<sup>19</sup> Whitlow, p. 535, section 727. Local lore says that the door between the dining room and breezeway was the original county courthouse's front door, but it is too thin to have been an exterior door. Cannon, in Family Papers, *Azariah Graves Thompson Papers*, p. 49.

<sup>20</sup> Little-Stokes, p. 179.

<sup>21</sup> It is assumed that the courthouse had been removed from the property by the time the Thompsons had their house built ca. 1810. The two-story frame tavern, which stood northwest of the house, was disassembled and moved to Virginia when the highway was widened through Leasburg in the 1970s. NC Caswell County Historical Association, Caswell Historical Association Blog, "Leasburg Tavern (Leasburg, North Carolina)," (<https://ncccha.blogspot.com/2018/03/leasburg-tavern-leasburg-north-carolina.html>) (accessed 31 August 2022).

<sup>22</sup> Yancey, Bartlett, Jr. *The County of Caswell in 1810*. <http://yanceyfamilygenealogy.org/caswell.htm>, August 25, 2019. (First appeared in *The Raleigh Star* newspaper in 1811). (Accessed 12/23/2021); and Kendall, *Caswell County, North Carolina Deed Books, 1777-1817*p. 343 [DB R, pp. 184-6].

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After having his house built, Thompson continued to develop the property. In 1834, he hired Reubin Walton to build a smokehouse, as indicated by faded writing on the interior, "This house built for Nicholas Thompson by Reubin Walton . . . May 1834 . . . \$16.25." It stands in a line near the northeast corner of the house with two other outbuildings, the earlier kitchen/slave quarters and a meat storage building likely built by the same carpenter around the same time as the smokehouse, as indicated by the similarity in construction, materials, and overall form with a steeply pitched gable roof. The date of a log corn crib southeast of the house is not known, but it appears to be antebellum.

Over time, Thompson's business interests expanded to include the purchase of additional farmland and other real estate investments, expansion of his tanning and saddlery businesses, and banking. From 1810 Thompson continued to acquire property along Cobb Creek, the location of his tannery.<sup>23</sup> Between the years 1821 and 1828 he acquired over 400 acres on North Hycy Creek, just a few miles northwest of Leasburg.<sup>24</sup> He also acquired several properties on the main street in Milton, North Carolina, a town ten to fifteen miles north of Leasburg, including a parcel purchased with James Holder, who owned a saddler shop in Milton.<sup>25</sup> His success as a tanner and merchant is documented in the 1850 U.S. Federal Census, where he is listed twice in Schedule 5, Products of Industry: individually as a tanner with over \$2,000 invested in the business, \$800 in hides, and three paid employees to produce leather by hand; and as a saddler in partnership with John Hambrick (Thompson and Hambrick) with product worth \$2600.<sup>26</sup> In 1852 he was involved in chartering the Bank of Yanceyville.<sup>27</sup>

To work his land, Thompson enslaved a large number of people. U. S. Census records from 1810 to 1850 document his enslavement of a steadily increasing number of people. He enslaved 4 people in 1810, 9 in 1820, 22 in 1830, 26 in 1840 and 38 in 1850.<sup>28</sup> The nominated property

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<sup>23</sup> Kendall, *Caswell County, North Carolina Deed Books, 1777-1817*, p. 358 [DB R, p. 363, 1816].

<sup>24</sup> Kendall, Katherine, *Caswell County, North Carolina Deed Books, 1817-1840*, Baltimore: Clearfield Co., 1993, pp. 66, 105, 116, 125, 134 [DB V pp. 368-9; DB W, pp. 280-1; DB W pp. 365-6; DB X pp. 135-5; DB X pp. 285-6. Years: 1821-1828].

<sup>25</sup> Kendall, Katherine, *Caswell County, North Carolina Deed Books, 1817-1840*, pp. 19 and 25 [DB S, p. 272; and DB S, pp. 340-341].

<sup>26</sup> Ancestry.com. *1850 US Federal Census: Census Place: Caswell County, North Carolina*; Archive Collection Number: *M1805*; Roll: *6*; Page: *302*; Line: *14*; Schedule Type: Manufacturing (accessed 24 Dec 2021).

<sup>27</sup> Powell, p. 345.

<sup>28</sup> Ancestry.com. *1810 US Federal Census, Caswell, North Carolina*, Roll 38, Page: 71, Image 00125, Family History Library Film 0337911; *1820 US Federal Census, Caswell, North Carolina*, Page 91, NARA Roll M33\_81, Image 62; *1830 US Federal Census, Caswell, North Carolina*, Series M19, Roll 119, Page 318, Family History Library Film 0018085; *1840 US Federal Census, Caswell, North Carolina*, Roll 358, Page 95, Family History Library Film 0018093; and *1850 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules* (The National Archive, Washington, DC, NARA Microform Publication M432, Title: Seventh Census of the United States, 1850, Record Group Number 29) Residence Place:: Caswell County. North Carolina. (All accessed 24 December 2021)

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includes one building that likely housed a number of enslaved people. It is presumed that the rest of those enslaved by the family lived on the farmland.<sup>29</sup>

In addition to being a successful farmer and businessman, Nicholas Thompson was known for his understanding of the value of education. He was on the Board of Trustees for the opening of a Young Ladies Seminary in Leasburg in 1837 and elected Superintendent of the Richmond District Caswell Co. schools in 1839.<sup>30</sup> His wife gave birth to eight children who grew to adulthood, six males and two females. Five of his sons graduated from the University of North Carolina: James and John became prominent physicians in Mississippi; Jacob and William became lawyers in Mississippi; and George became a lawyer and remained in Caswell County. Joseph remained in Caswell County as a farmer and merchant.<sup>31</sup>

Any history of the house should include a brief biography of the most famous of Nicholas and Lucretia Thompson's children, Jacob Thompson, who was born in the Federal part of the house. He was a U. S. congressman from Mississippi, the Secretary of the Interior under President Buchanan, entered the Confederate Secret Service, became a Confederate spy in Canada, and is considered responsible for a confederate raid on St. Albans in Vermont.<sup>32</sup> Letters to him from his father and from him to his brothers, written between 1828 and 1879 and housed in the University of Mississippi Library, shed light on the economic and social conditions of the time in Mississippi and in North Carolina.<sup>33</sup>

Tobacco had always been a major crop for the region, but in 1839 the accidental development of "bright leaf" tobacco by a slave in Caswell County created a remarkably strong

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<sup>29</sup> A Thompson family Bible contains a list of those enslaved and their dates of birth. Seven enslaved people were born between 1800 and 1844. Nathan, born ca. 1800, is mentioned as having gone to Petersburg, Virginia, to bring back a carriage that Nicholas Thompson had ordered from Baltimore. Nathan was also listed in Nicholas's will and left to his wife along with another enslaved person named Milly. The Thompson bible also lists Hannah, born in 1830, and documents the birth dates of her eleven children born between 1843 and 1863. Armstead, the oldest of Hannah's children, continued living on the Thompson farm after emancipation and died in 1930. Milly was born in 1831 had three children from 1844 to 1851. Fannie, Milly's youngest, was sold to Thompson's older brother Sidney, who lived next door, when she was eight years old for one thousand dollars. After the war Fannie married, had children, and continued to live in Leasburg. Lizzie, another enslaved person, was born in 1834 had six children from 1850 to 1862, and Rachel, who was born in 1843, had two children in 1862 and 1863, but both died shortly after birth. Whitlow, p.536; Kendall, Katherine and Donaldson, Mary Frances Kerr, *Caswell County, North Carolina Will Books, 1843-1868*, KK Kendall: Raleigh, NC, 1986 [Will Book R, p. 564]; and Family Papers, *Azariah Graves Thompson Papers*, pp. 130-132.

<sup>30</sup> Powell, pp. 368 and 372.

<sup>31</sup> Whitlow, p., 530.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 531.

<sup>33</sup> *William and Marjorie Lewis Memorial Collection* (MUM00266), Archives and Special Collections, University of Mississippi Libraries. [Thompson, Jacob, 1810-1885 -- Archives; Thompson family -- Archives; Oxford (Miss.) -- History].

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market, and the period 1840 to 1860 is often referred to as the “Boom Era.”<sup>34</sup> When the county's economy was boosted by bright leaf tobacco, the Thompson family, already wealthy from the tannery and farm, had a Greek Revival addition added onto the south side of the Federal house. The precise date of construction and who had the addition built – Nicholas Thompson or his son, George -- are uncertain. At age seventy-six, Nicholas Thompson died suddenly on July 28, 1857. As a co-executor of his father's estate, George Thompson paid \$20 for 5,000 shingles three months later, as documented by a receipt in the estate files, the only known documentation of building materials and perhaps the best clue to the addition's construction date. The I-house addition could have been planned and construction begun prior to Nicholas's death, or the shingles could have been ordered by George Thompson in anticipation of building the addition.<sup>35</sup>

The new addition reoriented the house to face south and hid many of the exterior references to the older dwelling. The new house introduced a center hall to the family, and its wide, horizontally oriented façade was very similar to others built across the county during the antebellum tobacco boom. The Greek Revival addition was, like the first section of the house, conservative. The Thompsons did not buck tradition or veer outside the accepted architectural language. They used the most popular form and applied the most popular stylistic elements of the day to create a standard, Greek Revival I-house that illustrated their place as prosperous, tasteful, members of Caswell County's society.

Upon Nicholas Thompson's death, his wife, Lucretia, inherited the house, outbuildings, banking assets, livestock, and a few enslaved persons. The rest of the property including slaves was to be distributed to the children, either directly or through distribution of the proceeds of property sales.<sup>36</sup> His fortune was estimated to be worth over \$100,000.<sup>37</sup>

The estate file of Nicholas Thompson demonstrates the extent of his wealth and its distribution after his death. This 200-plus-page estate document filed by the executors George N. and J. Sidney Thompson gives a detailed account of Nicholas's holdings and insight into the wealth of a planter merchant of the times. The distribution was approved by the court in 1860. His wife, Lucretia, received the house and the surrounding 545 acres, enslaved people named Nathan, Milly and her two children Ed and Fannie and a girl named Jane, a carriage, two horses, all the livestock, farm equipment and Bank stock and State bonds “for her sole use during her natural life.” After she died in 1858, George obtained the house and 545 acres valued at \$6,545 and the enslaved people his mother had inherited. (The two-room office in the front yard was added around this time and probably served as a law office for George Thompson.) J. Sidney, the

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<sup>34</sup> Powell, p. 469.

<sup>35</sup> North Carolina Estate Files, 1663-1979, Caswell County, Thompson, Nicholas (1857), State Archives, Raleigh (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GRNT-99Y2?cc=1911121&wc=Q6WY-GBZ%3A183208301%2C183403501%2C194637201>), image 164 of 396 (accessed 20 November 2015).

<sup>36</sup> Kendall and Donaldson [Will Book R, p. 564].

<sup>37</sup> Whitlow, p. 536.



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oldest son, who lived on an adjacent farm, acquired the tan yard and purchased Fanny for \$700. The list of good debts that were owed to Nicholas were valued at about \$27,000. In addition to the 545 acres there were another 1,802 acres valued at about \$35,440. J. Sidney purchased 418 of those acres. There were 45 additional enslaved people that included two considered infirm and six children with a total value of \$32,825. These enslaved people are named in the document and were divided into eight groups with one group going to each of the eight heirs, who were the six remaining living children and the families of two adult children that had died previously. Thirty of the slaves were sent to Mississippi where six of the Thompson heirs lived. The other slaves remained with George and J. Sidney in Leasburg. Each heir received the equivalent of \$17,911. This was in addition to \$5000 that each of the heirs received shortly prior to Nicholas's death.<sup>38</sup>

George Thompson (1832-1891), the youngest of Nicholas and Lucretia Thompson's children, married Betty Johnston (1837-1880) in 1858 shortly after his mother's death. As noted above, he was a graduate of the University of North Carolina, and in 1855 he received his law license.<sup>39</sup> The 1860 U.S. Federal Census lists him as a lawyer with real estate worth \$7,000 and \$17,000 in personal property and living with his wife in the Nicholas and Lucretia Thompson House.<sup>40</sup> During the Civil War he was a major in the Home Guard and later served as Superintendent of Schools in Caswell County, Trustee of UNC and an 1885 Representative in the North Carolina Legislature.<sup>41</sup> He was married three times and had twelve children.

Following the Civil War, the area was in economic decline because labor was no longer unpaid and transportation remained difficult. The railroad was built through Durham, North Carolina, bypassing Caswell County and making Durham the regional center for tobacco manufacturing. The 1870 census lists George and Betty Thompson, four of their five children, a man named Samuel Johnston (most likely Betty's father), and a black farmhand, George Gainstead, living on the property. At that time Thompson's real estate was valued at \$4,000 and personal property at \$3,000. He fared considerably better than his older brother, farmer and merchant Joseph Sidney Thompson (1805-1891), who lived nearby. His real estate was valued at \$26,300 and personal property at \$64,000 in 1860 but in 1870 his real estate was valued at \$1,000 and personal property at \$500.<sup>42</sup> George Thompson as a lawyer was less dependent on farming, which had become significantly less profitable with the end of slavery, and he was

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<sup>38</sup> North Carolina Estate Files, 1663-1979, Caswell County, Thompson, Nicholas (1857); and Kendall and Donaldson [Will Book R, p. 564].

<sup>39</sup> Dixon, William S. "The Leasburg I Knew," from notes at <https://www.caswellcountync.org/getperson.php?personID=I2314&tree=tree1> (accessed 1 January 2022).

<sup>40</sup> Ancestry.com. 1860 U.S. Federal Census, Leasburg, Caswell, North Carolina, Roll M653 891, Page 378, Family History Library Film 803891 (accessed 24 December 2021; searched G. N. Thompson).

<sup>41</sup> Family Papers, *Azariah Graves Thompson Papers*, p. 33

<sup>42</sup> Ancestry.com. 1870 U. S. Federal Census, *Leasburg, Caswell, North Carolina*, Roll M593\_1128, Page 351B, Family History Library Film 552627 (accessed 24 December 2021).

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involved in many of the bankruptcy foreclosures in the area.<sup>43</sup> Because George Thompson's estate remained fairly intact following the war, the house remained occupied by the family, and the region never fully recovered economically from the Civil War, the property has survived in its mid-nineteenth century condition, in contrast to the many antebellum homes that fell into disrepair or were lost in the decades following the war.

The Nicholas and Lucretia Thompson House remained in the Thompson family for eighty years after George Thompson's death. Two of his children, Bessie (1870-1955) and Ella Graves Thompson (1886-1970), never married and continued to live in the house along with Helen Graves (1882-1964), Bessie's niece, until their deaths. One of the other children of George Thompson, James Neal Thompson (1878-1960), returned to Leasburg after his wife died in 1938 and lived on the property in the office. The property was sold from the family in 1971, after Ella's death, to Carolyn M. Thomas of Caswell County.<sup>44</sup> It was then sold by Carolyn Thomas to Jo Anne Ensley Upchurch in 1977 and the deed includes the provision for moving the tavern and filling and grading the site.<sup>45</sup> Guy Hills and his family were the next owners and may have added the modern closets in the house.<sup>46</sup> In 1986, the Hills sold the property to the present owners, who use the property as a retreat while performing maintenance, making repairs, and stabilizing structures.<sup>47</sup>

### Architecture Context

The architectural significance of the Nicholas and Lucretia Thompson House derives from its two phases of construction, the first ca. 1810, a rare surviving two-story, one-room-wide dwelling, and the second its expansion at the end of the 1850s with the addition of a Greek Revival-style I-house. Furthermore, the house stands apart from its peers for its high degree of architectural integrity.

The one-room-plan house with various degrees of finish was one of the most prevalent dwelling types built in North Carolina from the eighteenth century through the early to mid-nineteenth century, followed by the two-room hall-parlor plan. The one-room-plan houses are found all along the northern tier of piedmont counties on the Virginia line and were

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<sup>43</sup> *The Tri-Weekly Standard*. (Raleigh, N.C.), 23 June 1868. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. (<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85042146/1868-06-23/ed-1/seq-4/>) (accessed 23 December 2021).

<sup>44</sup> Caswell County, North Carolina Register of Deeds. Deed Book 161, p. 640.

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.*, Deed Book 187, p. 617.

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid.*, Deed Book 189, p. 410.

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid.*, Deed Book 238, p. 31.

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predominantly of log. The vast majority were one or one-and-a-half stories with a side-gable roof and often with a rear shed, sometimes added so that the house had a saltbox or catslide roof.<sup>48</sup>

Caswell County retains to this day a large collection of houses with one-room floor plans with a sleeping loft or, occasionally, a full story above. The one-room house was likely one of the most common house forms in the late 1700s and early 1800s in the county. Based on surviving examples, they were mostly of log construction and were not as popular as two-room-wide houses with or without a center hall, but they were a widely accepted form.

These “small houses,” as architectural historian Catherine Bishir calls them, reflect a localized preference. It is not known why people chose to build these small houses, but Bishir notes that during the Federal period, “even the richest planters built along conservative lines. They continued to use a range of traditional house forms and an approach to ornament established before the Revolution.”<sup>49</sup> Bishir continues, “Especially striking in this period is the continued use of traditional open plans... While some wealthy families built houses with passages, many still preferred to have the main entrance directly into the principal room.”<sup>50</sup> Nicholas and Lucretia Thompson House conservatively deployed the common language of the narrow façade, but he created more space for himself, befitting of his status as a successful businessman, by having a second story and tucking additional rooms behind the single-room width.

Based on their absence from the architectural survey publication, no free-standing two-story, one-room-wide houses were recorded during the 1972 survey of Caswell County, either because they had been lost or were inaccessible. The only such house type cited in the survey is the Thompson House (identified as the Nicholas and Lucretia Thompson House in the survey), albeit as the rear wing of the I-house addition. There may be other such houses yet to be identified that are now secondary wings or completely overbuilt and no longer recognizable as having originated as freestanding buildings. In neighboring Rockingham County to the west, where the architectural history is similar to Caswell County’s, surviving one-room frame houses built before 1860 were rare; and only three or four one-room frame houses and two two-story, one-room-plan houses were recorded. The Rockingham County survey report notes that one-room and hall-parlor houses were built to both one- and two-story heights, but only the wealthy built two-story dwellings and two-room-deep houses were extremely rare.<sup>51</sup>

<sup>48</sup> See, for example, White House (p. 11), R. L. Michelle House (p. 65), Bluford Cooper House (p. 67), Elias Slade House (p. 153), Mise Cabin (p. 154), Stanfield House (p. 186) in Little-Stokes, all of log construction except for the frame Stanfield House.

<sup>49</sup> Catherine Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press for The Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina, Inc., 2005, p. 128.

<sup>50</sup> Bishir, pp. 132-133.

<sup>51</sup> Woodard, Sarah A., “Historic and Architectural Resources of Rockingham County, North Carolina, ca. 1799-1953,” 2003, National Register Multiple Documentation Form on file at the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, NC and available at <https://www.ncdcr.gov/media/686/download>.

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In the publication of her architectural survey of Caswell County, Little-Stokes notes, “Some of the most visually appealing Federal woodwork in Caswell County is found in houses which appear totally insignificant from the exterior.” She goes on to describe the ornate mantelpieces of the one-and-a-half-story frame Thornton-Hunter House in Yanceyville and the two-story log Walker House near Anderson, both displaying plain exteriors, as featuring “the same fluting, pierced and gouged moldings and dentil cornices as the mantels in Melrose and the Moore-Gwyn House,” both notably large and stylish houses.<sup>52</sup> These descriptions recall the three Federal-style mantelpieces, all exhibiting fluting, reeding, and gouging, that remain in the original wing of the Nicholas and Lucretia Thompson House, which also retains several six-panel Federal-era doors.

In Caswell County, the “combination of a wealthy planter class supported by slave labor and the proximity of sophisticated Piedmont Virginia architecture resulted in the construction between 1840 and 1860 of an extensive group of substantial, architecturally distinctive farmhouses . . . . The dominant house type became a two-story farmhouse with moderate architectural pretension. This type, labeled the "Boom Era" house, is a boxy frame house with exterior Greek Revival style decoration concentrated on the entrance and porch. The Boom Era house is a rural form, closely linked to the tobacco plantations. . . . The rows of outbuildings -- slave cabins, smokehouses, dairies, and kitchens -- which define the "back yard" of several of the plantations, fit into the same tradition.”<sup>53</sup> The Nicholas and Lucretia Thompson House with its outbuildings is a perfect example of this architecturally distinctive house, and like most of the Greek Revival I-houses built in the county, it is conservatively appointed with a pedimented, shallow-pitch, side-gable roof, deep, unembellished eaves, boxed cornices, six-over-six windows in plain surrounds, and a hip-roofed front porch with tapered box posts. The interior is similarly conservative but finely finished with two-panel Greek Revival doors, fluted surrounds with plain corner blocks, and fairly plain mantelpieces with Doric pilasters, flat friezes, and pointed arch shelves.

A popular trend throughout the nineteenth century was the expansion of early one-, one-and-a-half- and two-story houses by adding a larger wing set perpendicular to the initial dwelling, rendering it a rear wing, usually an ell. Often, this process included a remodeling of the earlier house to blend it stylistically with the new, now primary wing. The Nicholas and Lucretia Thompson House epitomizes this trend. When the I-house was added, the roof of the original house was rebuilt as a pedimented, shallow-pitched gable, the main entrance and one of the windows were replaced with large six-over-six windows, and much of the interior finishes were replaced, all in the Greek Revival style of the addition.

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<sup>52</sup> Little-Stokes, p. 29.

<sup>53</sup> Caswell County Historical Association, *Architecture of Caswell County*, <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~ncccha/memoranda/architecture> (accessed 12/23/2021).

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In its focus on late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century buildings, Ruth Little-Stokes's 1972 comprehensive architectural survey of Caswell County documented dozens of Greek Revival-style houses from the county's Boom Era, and many of these houses presented in the survey publication resemble the Greek Revival wing of the Nicholas and Lucretia Thompson House in form and finishes. For the purpose of placing the house in its appropriate context by comparing and contrasting it to others, the discussion that follows is limited to frame three-bay Greek Revival I-houses that over-built or were attached to earlier houses. Like the Thompson House, all of the other houses are sheathed in plain weatherboards and have exterior end chimneys and six-over-six windows, but in contrast to the Thompson House, almost all have hip roofs and most have a pedimented or gable-front porch that usually is a single story.<sup>54</sup>

Four Greek Revival I-houses documented in 1972 entirely or partially over-built or completely remodeled an early nineteenth-century house. The Fannie Wells House (survey site no. CS0294), in the Prospect Hill community, is a mid-nineteenth-century overbuilding of a one-and-one-half-story Federal-style house. It featured a one-story pedimented entrance porch with lattice-work posts and a fluted entrance surround with corner blocks and retained its original interior Federal-style detailing. On the northern outskirts of Yanceyville, the Watlington House (CS0257), a complete Boom Era overbuilding of an early nineteenth-century house, displays brackets in the deep eaves of its hip roof and a hip-roofed porch with Doric columns. It has not been determined if the rear ell dates to the original construction or the Boom Era. The Harrison-Wilkerson House in the Blanch community (CS0178) is a two-story, one-room-deep form that is a complete remodeling of a Federal-style dwelling with Greek Revival detailing or an overbuilding of a one- or one-and-a-half-story form. A side-gable roof and a pedimented entrance porch with slightly tapered box posts characterize the house, and the rear ell may be part of the original construction. Also in the Blanch community, the ca. 1820 Federal-style Thomas Slade House (CS0181), a one-and-a-half-story two-room house with a steeply-pitched side-gable roof and end chimney with freestanding stack, was partially overbuilt ca. 1855 with a hip-roofed Greek Revival-style I-house that left part of the original house as a rear ell. Since publication of the survey in 1979, the Fannie Wells and Tucker houses have been extensively altered. The Thomas Slade House, already altered with a replacement front porch by 1972, has been further changed with new side and rear wings and possibly the addition of synthetic siding. The current status of the Watlington House has not been determined.

Outside of Leasburg, Little-Stokes identified six Greek Revival-style I-houses built during the Boom Era as additions to early nineteenth-century houses. The primary, I-house wing of the Tucker House (CS0287), in the Locust Hill community, was built in 1855 as an addition to a one-and-a-half-story Federal-era house. In 1972, it was substantially intact except for an almost-full-façade replacement porch dating to the late nineteenth century. The Bartlett Yancey House (CS0005, NR 1973) initially was a one-and-a-half-story dwelling built ca. 1815. A two-story, one-room-deep L-shaped addition with a hip roof and trabeated main entrance, built in 1856, presents its main façade as an I-house. The 1860 front wing of the Graves-Covington House

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<sup>54</sup> For fuller descriptions and additional information on these houses, see Little-Stokes.

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(CS0341), in the Topnot community south of Yanceyville, was connected via a breezeway (later enclosed) to a portion of a one-and-a-half-story Federal-era house with flush gable ends built for the Graves family. In the Osmond community, north of Leasburg, the I-house wing of the ca. 1860 Miles Smith House (CS0451) had a side gable roof and minimal Greek Revival detailing. Ca. 1855, the one-and-a-half-story hall-parlor-plan Badgett House (CS0231, in the Pelham community), featuring flush gable ends and a large exterior end chimney, was expanded by adding a hip-roofed I-house with a two-story rear ell that overbuilt one end of the original house. A one-bay Doric porch sheltered the main entrance and a similar porch was built at the end of the ell so that it partially overlapped the façade of the remaining portion of the Federal-era house. Added to the gable end of a one-story Federal-era house in 1854, the primary wing of the Crutchfield House (CS0222), in the Providence community, is a hip-roofed I-house with trabeated entrance.

All six of these houses have been lost or altered. The Miles Smith House, which was very dilapidated when documented in 1972, has been lost and the other five houses have experienced various degrees of alteration prior to the 1972 survey or since its publication in 1979. The Tucker House, now apparently abandoned, has lost much of the fabric of its main façade and has had one-story wings added. In 1972 the Bartlett Yancey House had already been altered in the Victorian era with replacement two-over-two windows and a wraparound porch with turned and sawn elements. The Graves-Covington House, already aluminum-sided in 1972, has had its entrance porch posts replaced with aluminum columns and louvered window shutters replaced with “pasted on” vinyl shutters. The Badgett House has been sheathed in synthetic siding and has had a wraparound porch added to two sides of the Greek Revival ell and the front of the remaining portion of the original house. The Crutchfield House already had replacement four-over one Craftsman-style windows in 1972; it is not known if additional alterations have been made since then.

Three other Greek Revival-style houses, all in Leasburg, merit mention for both their similarities to and differences from the Nicholas and Lucretia Thompson House. The Walter E. Connally House (CS0388), a ca. 1860 Greek Revival-style overbuilding of an early nineteenth-century dwelling, retains a one-and-a-half-story gable-roofed rear wing with Federal-style detailing that is a remnant of the original house. Like the Thompson House, its roof is side-gabled (but not pedimented), and its porch is hip-roofed, but the porch is wider and two-tiered with curvilinear sawnwork posts, the eaves are open with exposed rafter ends, the facade is wider, and the house has been aluminum-sided. Across the road, the Stanfield-Connally-Kimbro House (CS0387) retains a rear, Federal-era wing, but its ca. 1860 main block is two rooms deep with a hip roof and interior chimneys. Greek Revival-style trabeated front entrances at each story indicate that the porch originally was two-tiered, but it was replaced in the late nineteenth century with a very decorative Queen Anne-style porch that is full-façade at the first story and two-tiered at the entrance bay. The house has been vinyl-sided. The ca. 1860 Walter Thomas House (CS0457) is very similar to the Thompson House except that it is hip-roofed and its Doric front porch is two-tiered, pedimented, and has stacked entrances that are trabeated. More important, the entire house, including its rear wing, dates to ca. 1860.

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The architectural significance of the Nicholas and Lucretia Thompson House extends to its outbuildings. The 1972 county architectural survey documented few collections of outbuildings. Among these, the Thompson House outbuildings are called out in the 1979 survey publication for their number, range of construction dates, and variety. The six remaining historic domestic, commercial, professional, and agricultural outbuildings were built at various times between ca. 1810 and 1860, beginning with the ca. 1810 tanner's shop and concluding with the ca. 1860 law office. The kitchen/slave quarters likely dates to the early nineteenth century, perhaps built at about the time of the original portion of the house, while the smoke house and meat storage house date to the 1830s and the corn crib is antebellum. While there may have been additional domestic outbuildings, such as a dairy, that have been lost, those that survive represent the complement typical of the period. The two offices recall the occupations of Nicholas and George Thompson, who were most closely associated with the property, and the corn crib recalls the family's agricultural pursuits on the hundreds of acres that extended from the house site but are no longer associated with it. What is perhaps most remarkable about the collection is its survival fifty years after the county survey (by which time many of the outbuildings recorded in 1972 are likely altered or lost) and their overall good degree of architectural integrity with no replacement synthetic siding.

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**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:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University

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Other  
Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** CS0458

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### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 6.27

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: 36.394281N | Longitude: -79.150478E |
| 2. Latitude:            | Longitude:             |
| 3. Latitude:            | Longitude:             |
| 4. Latitude:            | Longitude:             |

**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.)

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The nominated property encompasses all of Caswell County parcel PIN 9955600529522, bounded on the north by NC Highway 158, on the west by Olive Hill Church Rd., on the south by Old Durham Highway and on the east by the Duncan property. The boundary follows the edge of pavement along Olive Hill Church Road, Old Durham Highway, and US Highway 158 on the west, south, and north sides respectively; the east boundary follows the east edge of the parcel lot line on which the resources stand.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the residual parcel of the homeplace owned by Nicholas Thompson at his death in 1857 and contains the Nicholas and Lucretia Thompson House and all of the extant associated built resources. The boundary provides an appropriate setting sufficient to convey the resources' architectural significance and illustrate their relationship to the surrounding roads. At just over 6.5 acres, the land may correspond to the two three-acre town lots Thompson purchased in the early 1800s.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Dwight and Susan Bellinger

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

street & number: 312 N Churton Street

city or town: Hillsborough state: NC zip code: 27278

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

telephone: 919-732-6816

date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Thompson, Nicholas and Lucretia, House  
Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina  
County and State

- **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**

1 of 16 . PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information pertains to all photographs:

Name of Property: Nicholas and Lucretia Thompson House

City or Vicinity: Leasburg

County and State: Caswell County, North Carolina

Photographers: Susan and Dwight Bellinger

Date of Photographs: 9/22/2022 unless otherwise indicated below

Digital images located at the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office

Photo #1: Exterior, south facade, camera facing north.

Photo #2: Exterior, west facade, camera facing east.

Photo #3: Exterior, north facade, camera facing south.

Photo #4: Exterior, east facade, camera facing west

Photo #5: Interior, living room, camera facing west.

Photo #6: Interior, music room, camera facing east.

Photo #7: Interior, dining room, camera facing northeast, 10/5/2022

Thompson, Nicholas and Lucretia, House  
Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina  
County and State

Photo #8: Interior, northwest bedroom, camera facing east.

Photo #9: Interior, southwest bedroom, camera facing west.

Photo #10: Tanner's Shop, west facade, camera facing east, 2/23/2020.

Photo #11: Law Office, north facade, camera facing south.

Photo #12: Meat House/Storage Building (background), Smoke House, Kitchen/Slave Quarters (foreground), camera facing west.

Photo #13: Corn Crib, south façade, camera facing northeast, 11/11/2019.

Thompson, Nicholas and Lucretia, House  
Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina  
County and State



Photo 1 above: south façade; Photo 2 below: west elevation





Thompson, Nicholas and Lucretia, House  
Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina  
County and State



Photo 3 above: north elevation; Photo 4 below, east elevation



Thompson, Nicholas and Lucretia, House  
Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina  
County and State



Photo 5 above, living room, facing west; Photo 6 below, music room, facing east



Thompson, Nicholas and Lucretia, House  
Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina  
County and State



Photo 7 above: dining room, facing northeast; Photo 8 below, northwest bedroom, facing east



Thompson, Nicholas and Lucretia, House  
Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina  
County and State



Photo 9 above: southwest bedroom, facing west; Photo 10 below: Tanner's Shop, west facade



Thompson, Nicholas and Lucretia, House  
Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina  
County and State



Photo 11 above: Law Office, north façade; Photo 12 below: Landscape with Meat House/Storage Building (background), Smoke House, Kitchen/Slave Quarters (foreground)



Thompson, Nicholas and Lucretia, House  
Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina  
County and State



Photo 13: Corn Crib, camera facing northeast

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for nominations 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

Thompson, Nicholas and Lucretia, House  
Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina  
County and State

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.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

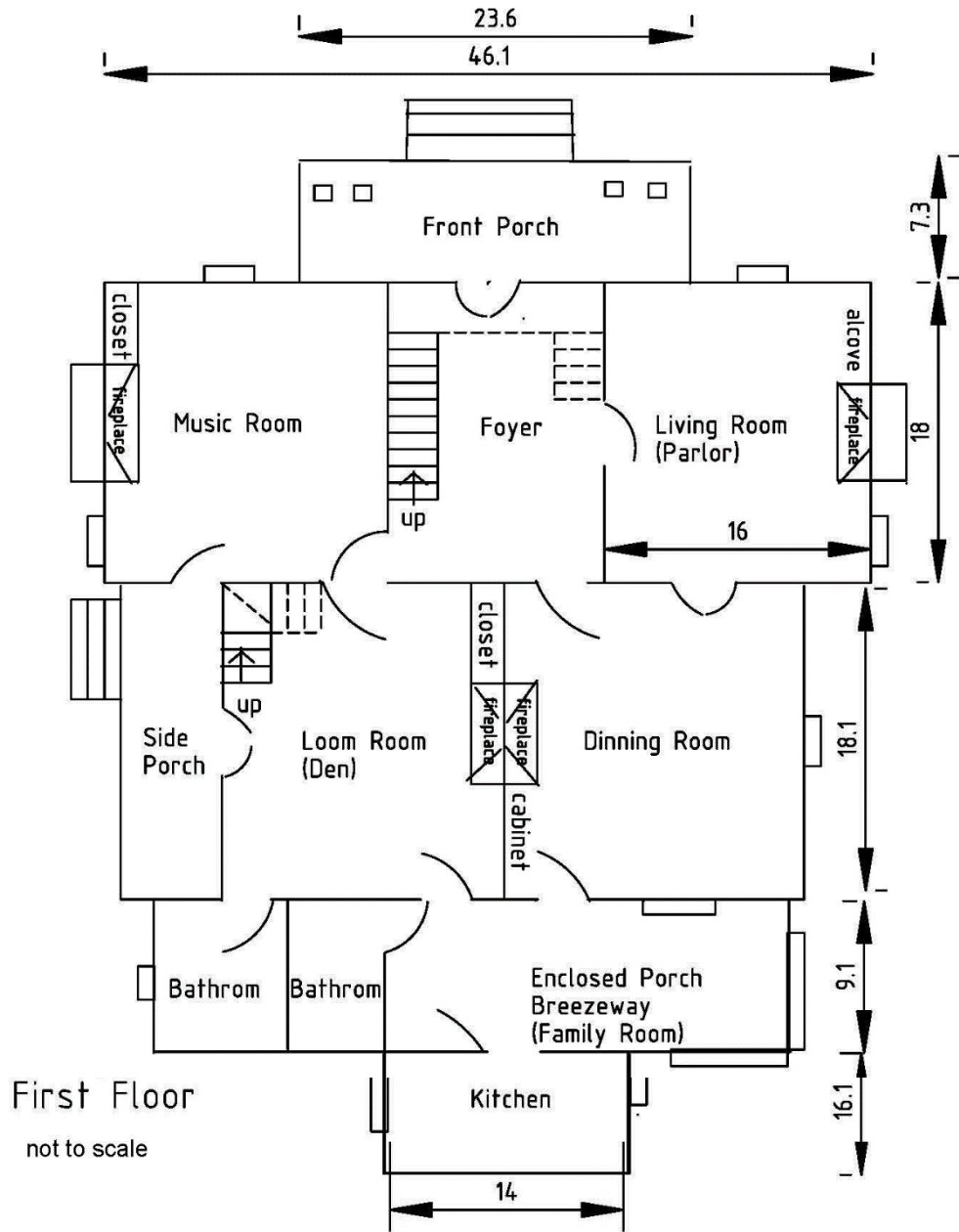
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

Thompson, Nicholas and Lucretia, House  
Name of Property

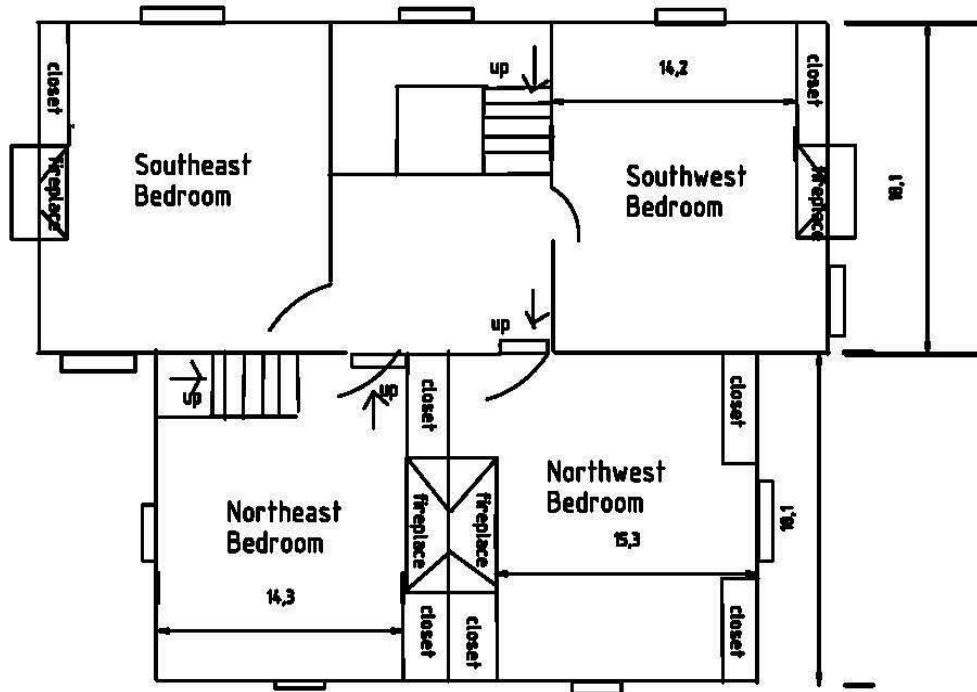
Caswell, North Carolina  
County and State



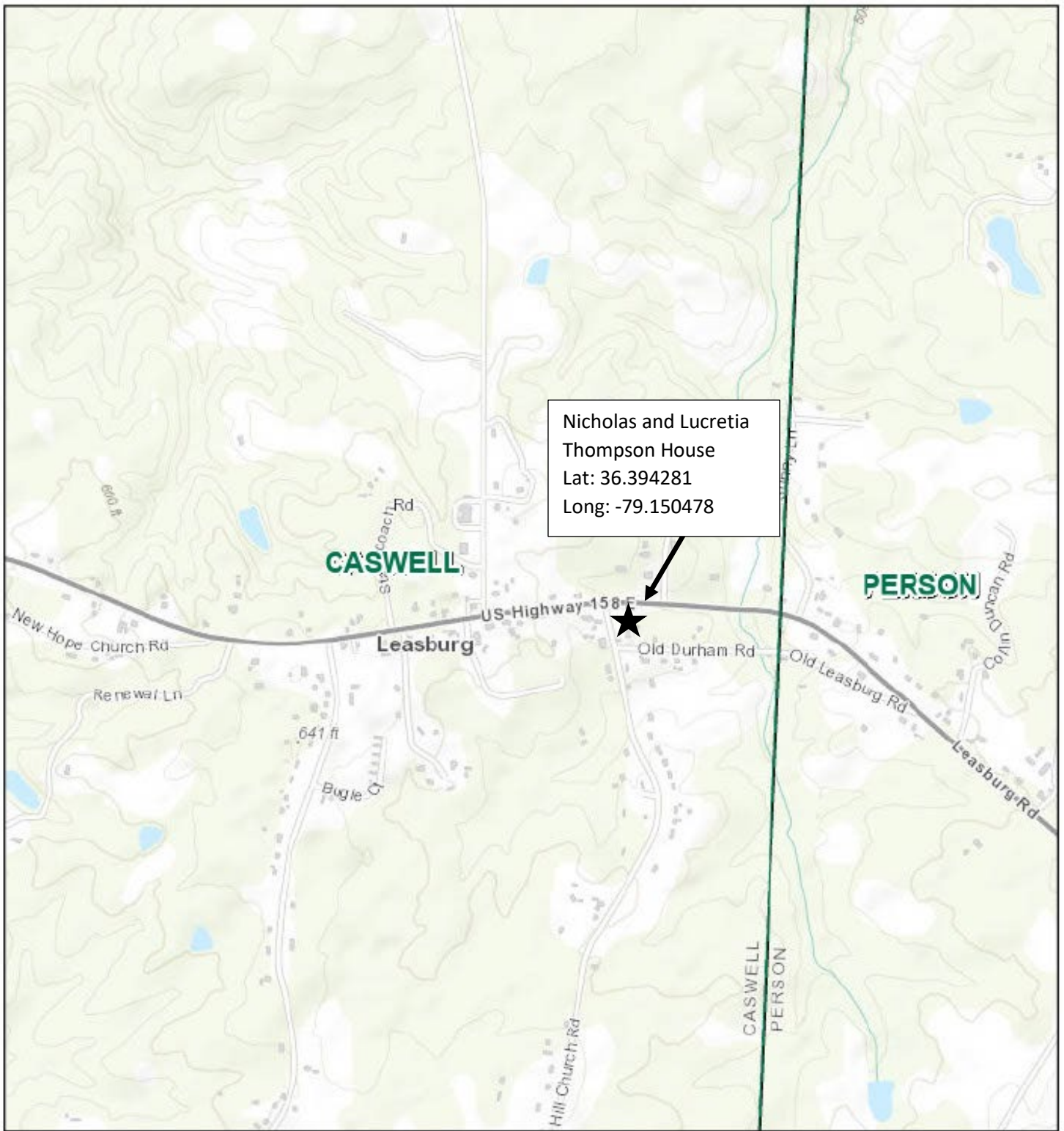


Thompson, Nicholas and Lucretia, House  
Name of Property

Caswell, North Carolina  
County and State

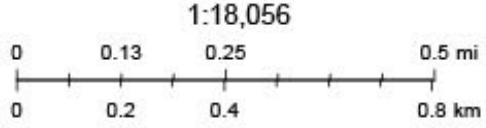


Second Floor  
not to scale



Nicholas and Lucretia  
Thompson House  
Lat: 36.394281  
Long: -79.150478

**Nicholas and Lucretia Thompson House**  
7846 US Hwy 158 East  
Leasburg, Caswell County, North  
Carolina  
**National Register Location Map**

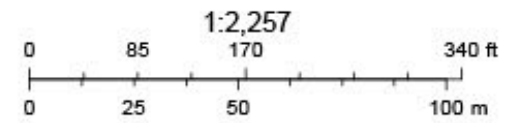


Source: NC HPO, HPOWEB  
Created by Hannah Beckman-Black 9-12-2022



**Nicholas and Lucretia Thompson House**  
7846 US Hwy 158 East  
Leasburg, Caswell County, North Carolina  
**National Register Boundary Map**

Boundary encompasses  
tax parcel number  
9955600529522, indicated  
by the thick white line.



**Nicholas and Lucretia Thompson House**  
7846 US Hwy 158 East  
Leasburg, Caswell County, North Carolina  
**National Register Site Plan**

**National Register Boundary**



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. House – contributing building                 | 6. Meat Storage/Storage Building – contributing building |
| 2. Tanner’s Shop – contributing building         | 7. Well House – contributing structure                   |
| 3. Law Office – contributing building            | 8. Corn Crib – contributing structure                    |
| 4. Kitchen/Slave Quarters- contributing building | 9. Tractor/Car shed – non-contributing structure         |
| 5. Smoke House – contributing building           |  |



**N**

