



HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION

P.O. Box 2511

Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27102

919-727-2087

APPLICATION for HISTORIC DESIGNATION HISTORIC and ARCHITECTURAL

INFORMATION FORM

1. Name of Property: Historic Thomas A. Crews House
Common same
2. Owner's Name and Address: Mrs. Odessa P. Crews (Lot 17C)
Lot 17D owned jointly by:
Mrs. Sallie Crews Johnson P. O. Box 237
4841 Trevor Ct.
Marietta, Ga. 30068 and Walkertown, N. C. 27051
Mrs. Nancy Crews Moretz, 3708 Pinecrest Dr. NE, Hickory, N.C., 28601
3. Location of Property: 4997 Main Street, Walkertown
4. Amount of Land to be Designated: 7.2 acres
5. Tax Block: 2151a Tax Lot: 17c and 17d
(17c contains the house and outbuildings;
17d contains the smokestack and field)

ADDITIONAL SHEETS OF PAPER WILL BE NECESSARY FOR
DOCUMENTATION ON QUESTIONS 6 THROUGH 13.

6. When was the building erected? For Whom? (If you don't know the exact date, please give a general time frame.) Have there been additions or modifications? If so, describe and give dates.
7. Do you know the names of any of the craftsmen who worked on the building? (i.e., architects, carpenters, contractors, landscape designers, etc.) Do any architect's plans or building accounts exist? Where?
8. Do you have any old photographs of the building? If so, do you know the dates of the photographs?
9. How has the building been passed down through the years, from whom to whom? (i.e., a quick chain of title) If possible, please give some background on each occupant, (i.e., occupations or other interesting facts). List the sources of your information.
10. What was the building's original use, if different from today? Has the building ever been moved? List the sources of your information.
11. What is the significance of this property (Please be specific and to the point). Include a complete list of sources for your information.

City of
Winston-Salem

County of
Forsyth

Town of
Kernersville

12. Describe the architecture and present condition of the structure, also including any outbuildings or other appurtenant features to be included in the designation. If the property has been restored, what were the dates of restoration and was the restoration done under the supervision of any historical group or in compliance with their requirements. If the property has not been restored, is any restoration planned for the property?
13. Is the property listed in any existing Historic Register or survey (i.e., the National Register of Historic Places or any other state or local history)? If so, please give the title of the listing.

In addition to the written application, the following materials must be submitted simultaneously:

- a black and white, 8" x 10" overall photograph clearly depicting the property being designated.
- color slides showing all 4 sides of the building (may also include any architectural details, interior and exterior, which add to the property's significance)
- a map showing the location of the property, including any outbuildings and appurtenant features

(Please label the above materials with the name of the property owner)

APPLICATION FEE \$50.00 (Check payable to Forsyth County)

The following information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

July 7, 1994
Date

Odessa P. Crews
Signature of Property Owner

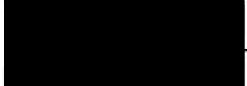
Sallie Crews Johnson
Signature of Property Owner


Mailing Address:

Mrs. Sallie Crews Johnson
4841 Trevor Ct., Marietta, Ga., 30068

Mrs. Odessa P. Crews
P.O. Box 237, Walkertown, N.C., 27051

Nancy Crews Moretz
Signature of Property Owner

Telephone: 

Mrs. Nancy Crews Moretz, 3708 Pinecrest Dr. NE, Hickory, N.C. 28601, 

Application for Historic Designation
Thomas A. Crews House and Outbuildings, Walkertown

6. The frame house built for Thomas A. Crews was erected in 1891, apparently as a two-story, T-shaped structure with a one-story rear ell. The Crews House was enlarged with a two-story, gable-end addition across the rear, or east side of the base of the "T," probably around 1911. It is likely that the roof of the Crews house was largely reconstructed in 1911 to create the current form of a hip roof from which gables project to the front and south side, with a hip-roofed dormer on the north side. The patterned, pressed-tin roof covering is a 1992 replacement similar to the original.

There are eight outbuildings surrounding the Crews House which contribute to its significance. A complete description of these buildings is found in the National Register nomination, Section 7, pages 5 and 6.

1. Wash House. 1891. Brick. Restored in 1992.
2. Smoke House. 1891. Frame. Renovated in 1992.
3. Pump House. Frame. Early twentieth century.
4. Chicken House. Frame. Early twentieth century.
5. Wood shed. Frame. Early twentieth century.
6. "Gear House." Frame. Early twentieth century.
7. Barn. 1891. Heavy timber, frame.
8. Smokestack of the Crews Tobacco Factory. 1891.

7. The names of any architects and/or builders are not documented. Local tradition has maintained that Jules Korner from nearby Kernersville may have assisted in the decorative aspects of the house. No plans or building accounts exist.

8. No early photographs exist.

9. Thomas A. Crews purchased 21 acres of land along "Sullivan's Road" in 1890 when he was thirty years old and still unmarried. He built a house and a tobacco factory on the land in 1891. He married Mary Frances Paschall in 1892. Thomas Crews died in 1940 and left the house to Mary Frances, who died in 1950. After Mary Crews' death, her son, James Walter Crews (1909-1983), returned to the house in 1953 with his wife, Odessa. Odessa Crews continues to own the house and the surrounding outbuildings which stand on Tax Lot 17C; her daughters, Sallie Crews Johnson and Nancy Crews Moretz, own the surrounding lot, Tax Lot 17D, which contains the smokestack of the former Crews Tobacco Factory and the cultivated

fields. (For more information on owners and occupants, see Section 8, pages 12-14, of the National Register Nomination.)

10. The Thomas A. Crews House has always been a residence. Neither it nor any of the outbuildings has been moved.

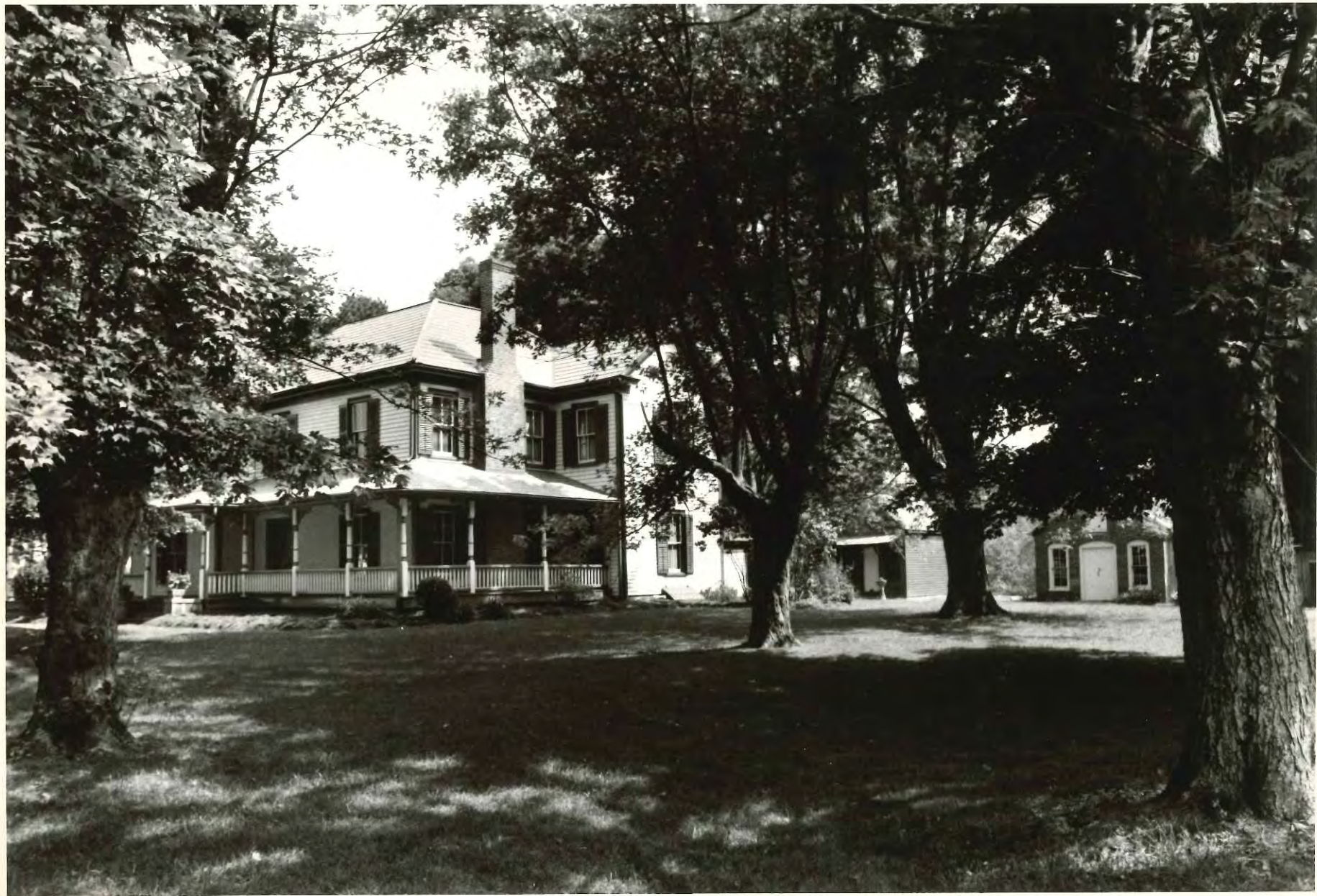
11. The Thomas A. Crews House is the best surviving example of vernacular Queen Anne architecture in Walkertown, N.C., a rural community northeast of Winston-Salem. In addition, it is the only property in the town which is associated with the life of Thomas A. Crews, one of Walkertown and Forsyth County's leading citizens. Crews, who built the house in 1891 and lived in it until his death in 1940, also built a factory next door to the house. The Crews House is a two-story, frame dwelling with a wrap-around porch, set amidst a grove of trees and flanked by seven outbuildings and the brick smokestack of the former Crews Tobacco Factory. The collection of outbuildings includes a smokehouse and wash house which are among the best examples of their types remaining in Forsyth County. The brick smokestack still stands on the property as a reminder of Thomas Crews's role in Walkertown's industrial heyday at the turn of the century. Crews, along with his brother, James, built the T. A. Crews Tobacco Factory in 1891. The Crews brands were purchased in 1904 by a tobacco conglomerate, and the factory was converted in to the Walkertown Milling Company. After the building burned in 1911, Crews entered the wholesale produce business. Although he is most important as an industrialist, Crews's successes in that area may be cited as a factor in his leadership in the community, both as a leader in Love's Methodist Church and as a benefactor of the local school system. (For more information, see Section 8 of the National Register Nomination.)

12. See Section 7 of the National Register nomination.

13. The Thomas A. Crews House (Lots 17C and 17D, Tax Block 2151A) and 7.2 acres of the original 21 acre tract purchased by Thomas Crews is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The nominated acreage includes the house and outbuildings and the smokestack from the Crews Tobacco Factory, along with the groves of trees surrounding the house and the fields behind it. The trees and field convey the physical character of the property during the period from 1891 to 1940.

The Thomas A. Crews House is listed in the Forsyth County Historic Inventory.







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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Crews, Thomas A., House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 4997 Main Street not for publication
city or town Walkertown vicinity
state North Carolina code NC county Forsyth code 067 zip code 27051

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____

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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Industry

Period of Significance

1891-1940

Significant Dates

1891

1911

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Crews, Thomas Albert

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Documentation checkboxes: preliminary determination, previously listed, landmark, survey, engineering.

Primary location of additional data:

- Location checkboxes: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State agency, Federal agency, Local government, University, Other.

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetThomas A. Crews House
Forsyth County
North CarolinaSection number 7 Page 1

Description:

The Thomas A. Crews House is located in Walkertown, N.C., a small town approximately six miles northeast of Winston-Salem. The house and its surroundings, including outbuildings, fields, and the smokestack of the former Crews Tobacco Factory, are located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Main Street and Sullivantown Road in Walkertown. The two-story, frame, Queen Anne-influenced house faces west towards Main Street, which runs south to Kernersville and north to Walnut Cove, and seven outbuildings stand to the rear of the house. Walkertown is a rural community, and the setting of the Crews House amidst a grove of maple, oak and pear trees buffered by hedges, open fields, and woodland reflects this. While Thomas Crews was not primarily a farmer, his lifestyle was rural and his house was accompanied by the necessary outbuildings. There are eight contributing buildings: the main house and seven outbuildings including a brick wash house, a frame smoke house, barn, pump house, chicken house, wood shed and equipment shed or "gear house." In addition, the sixty-five foot brick smokestack of the former Crews Tobacco Factory stands in a wooded area adjacent to the south lawn of the house.

1. Thomas A. Crews House. 1891, enlarged 1911. Contributing.

The frame house was built in 1891, apparently as a two-story, T-shaped structure with a one-story rear ell. It had an exterior end brick chimney on the south gable end (at the bottom of the base of the "T"), an interior brick chimney in the middle of the crossbar of the "T," and an interior brick chimney between the two rooms of the rear ell. All of the chimneys feature corbeled caps. The Crews House was enlarged with a two-story gable-end addition across the rear, or east side of the base of the "T," probably around 1911. A fourth chimney was added to the house near the center of the 1911 rear addition. It is likely that the roof of the Crews House was largely reconstructed in 1911 to create the current form of a hip roof from which gables project to the front and south side, with a hip-roofed dormer on the north side. The patterned, pressed-tin roof covering is a 1992 replacement similar to the original. The entire house has brick nogging between the framing members and rests on a brick foundation.

The dominant exterior feature of the Crews House

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Thomas A. Crews House
Forsyth County
North Carolina

Section number 7 Page 2

is the one story, shed-roofed, wrap-around porch that follows the contours of the north, west and south elevations, ending at the 1911 addition. It has turned posts and decorative brackets and a molded hand railing under which are square balusters that are installed at an oblique angle to appear diamond-shaped. Flooring is tongue and groove and the ceiling consists of narrow, beaded boards. The south, exterior common bond chimney with stepped shoulders, a corbeled cap and painted mortar joints projects into the south side of the front porch. A one-bay, hip-roofed pavilion projects from the northwest corner of the house toward Sullivantown Road at oblique angles to the north and west facades and is approached by a sidewalk and concrete steps. Another set of concrete steps faces west to Main Street and leads to a new double leaf front door. This door was installed in 1992 in an effort to replicate the original one which had been moved to the Thomas Sullivan House approximately one mile northwest several years ago. Another door faces Main Street from the southeast end of the porch and leads into the 1911 addition. It features one large pane of beveled glass over two horizontal raised panels. Other decorative exterior features are the molded box cornices with returns in the gables, a rectangular louvered vent in a pointed arch surround in each gable, and narrow molded cornerboards.

Windows throughout the house consist mainly of the original two-over-two double-hung sash in mitered surrounds except for the first floor of the north facade where French doors to the porch also serve as windows. The rear, or east, elevation also contains single-pane, lift-up windows installed in the ca. 1911 bathrooms on the first and second floors. New louvered shutters patterned on the original ones flank all of the windows except those on the rear facade. The south and east facades also feature basement windows at ground level with hinged covers made from the tin roofing material. The present covers are new but closely match the original ones.

The east or rear facade also features a projection with a gable roof and eaves returns which provides a covered basement entrance. The vertical-board door leads down concrete steps to a wooden screen door which opens into a concrete-floored and walled basement under the ca. 1911 addition. This covered entrance may have been added in 1924, the date written on the weatherboards above the screen door by James W. Crews.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetThomas A. Crews House
Forsyth County
North CarolinaSection number 7 Page 3

Projecting from the east facade is the gable-roofed rear ell with its shed-roofed side porch. The turned posts, handrail and balusters are identical to those on the wrap-around porch; the decorative brackets match those of the wrap-around porch but were added in 1992. This porch contains four doors: a raised four-panel door with a wooden screen leading into the back of the ca. 1911 addition, an identical door and screen leading into the west room of the ell, a small raised six-panel door leading to a closet, and a paneled door leading into the kitchen. The door leading into the back stair hall of the ca. 1911 addition probably was the original back door of the 1891 house which was moved to this position when the addition was made. The east end of the porch is enclosed as a small room with a four-pane single-sash window.

Interior finish throughout the center hall plan house includes plaster walls, tall baseboards, beaded board ceilings, and fireplaces with mantelpieces in every room except the southeast second floor bedroom, added ca. 1911 (see exhibit for floor plan.) Window and door surrounds in the 1891 section of the house are mitered with applied molding around the edge, and the 1891 doors all feature four raised panels. The use of crown molding and picture molding throughout the house is not consistent, as some rooms have neither one and the upstairs hall has picture molding on only two walls. Picture molding appears in the entrance, stair halls, parlor, and four bedrooms. Simple, narrow, crown molding appears only in the living room and dining room. Woodwork added in the 1911 expansion includes simple post and lintel door and window surrounds, and the center hall features vertical board wainscoting.

The 1911 addition extended the center hall to the current full depth of the house and entailed the installation of the vertical board wainscoting and an arched screen with side niches and tapered square posts bisecting the hall into an entrance hall and stair hall. The staircase was moved to its current position on the left wall at the rear of the hall when the addition was built. Originally, the stair was located on the south wall of the entrance hall, probably rising from front to rear (Wilds). (A portion of the 1891 handrail and newel is stored on the attic steps.) The staircase is closed-string and rises to the rear with a straight run to a landing, after which it turns on itself and continues to the second floor hall. It also features vertical wainscoting and a square newel post with a finial on the top. The balusters are turned and support a molded handrail. A brass

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Thomas A. Crews House
Forsyth County
North Carolina

Section number 7 Page 4

light fixture original to the house hangs in the front hall, which, along with the parlor and the southeast bedroom on the first floor, also contain picture molding.

Fifteen-pane glass doors lead from the entrance hall into the parlor and the living room. The parlor features a mantelpiece on the exterior south wall consisting of plain pilasters supporting a deep frieze with applied, sawn ornament and decorative brackets under the shelf. The tile fireplace surround probably was added ca. 1911. This is the most decorative mantelpiece in the house, and the applied sawnwork is in a sawtooth design with circles cut out above each point. Across the hall, the living room has a projecting fireplace on the interior wall shared with the dining room behind it. The fireplace projects only on the right side next to a door leading to the dining room; the wall to the left of it is flush with the mantelpiece to accomodate a deep closet off the dining room. This arrangement, however, of one wall being offset and the other flush with the mantel, continues throughout six rooms in the north half of the house as the space on one side of the chimney breast was utilized for closets or pantries. The mantelpiece in the living room is a simplified version of the parlor's, with plain pilasters and a deep frieze with an applied band of sawtooth decoration under the shelf.

After passing under the wooden arch in the entrance hall, the dining room door is to the left, almost touching the bottom step of the staircase, while to the right, an archway leads to a sidehall containing the doors to a bathroom and a bedroom. In the dining room the interior finish is almost identical to the living room. The bathroom has high vertical wainscoting which was retained during the 1992 remodeling. The bedroom features picture molding and a corner fireplace with with an overmantel and mirrored shelf flanked by Tuscan columns.

The interior finishes in the two rooms of the rear ell, the den and the kitchen, are also similar, with mantelpieces featuring simple pilasters supporting a plain, deep frieze under the shelf. The major differences in the two rooms are the wall coverings and the corner stair in the kitchen. The kitchen is the only room in the house in which the walls are covered with horizontal board sheathing, and the partially-enclosed corner stair leads to a loft above the kitchen and den. The loft also features vertical board sheathing and a board partition dividing the space. The loft is unpainted, and names of Crews family

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Thomas A. Crews House
Forsyth County
North Carolina

members and those of a black family, the Watkins, are pencilled on the east wall to the right of the window. A small stove remains in the loft where there were sleeping quarters for various people who worked for the Crews family.

The second floor of the Crews House is very similar in plan to the first floor. A side hall leading to a bath and bedroom is smaller than the first floor space to accommodate the enclosed attic staircase rising from the center hall. Two-over-two windows appear at each end of the hall; the rear or east window appears on the stair landing and has a ca. 1911 surround. The floor in the hall adjacent to the stair opening appears to have been patched. All rooms except the 1911 bedroom and bath feature mantelpieces with simple pilasters and a plain, deep frieze. Fireplace openings are square with plaster surrounds and are not centered, and the mantelpieces in the two northern rooms are offset on one side and flush on the other to accommodate closets. The mantelpiece in the southwest room is flush with the wall since the fireplace is in an exterior chimney.

The current appearance of the house is probably close to the ca. 1911 period with the exception of several details added during the 1992 renovation of the house. These include a new pressed tin roof, new front door, new porch brackets on the porch of the rear ell, some new bathroom fixtures, and an additional molded cap on the baseboards in the parlor, living room and dining room to match that found in the stair hall.

2. Wash House. 1891. Contributing. The wash house is a rectangular, common-bond brick building with a three-bay gable front and a tin roof. There is an interior, corbeled cap chimney on the east wall, and segmental arched windows and a door appear on the west wall. In 1992 a herring-bone double leaf front door replaced an original one of same design which had deteriorated. A loft door appears in the gable end above the main door. There are iron bars over the windows and earthquake bolts in the side walls. The interior features a concrete floor and brick oven structure which holds built-in iron pots in which to boil clothes. Some old machinery from the Crews Tobacco Factory is stored in this building.

3. Smoke House. 1891. Contributing. The smoke house is a rectangular, three-bay, gable-front frame building with a tin

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

Thomas A. Crews House
Forsyth County
North Carolina

roof and a shed tin roof over the entrance. It features four over four sash windows flanking a five-paneled front door. All exterior weatherboards had deteriorated and were replaced in 1992 with replicas of the original. The interior framing, flooring and ante-room partition with "Nat Crews" written on it are original.

4. Pump House. Early twentieth century. Contributing. The pump house is a simple, gable front frame building with a garage opening on north side and sash windows on two sides. It has a brick foundation. The structure is said to have housed the well pump; it is now used for tractor and other storage.

5. Chicken House. Early twentieth century. Contributing. This structure is a plain, vertical board chicken shed with a tin roof.

6. Wood Shed. Early twentieth century. Contributing. This small, simple frame building features a tin gable roof and brick foundation.

7. "Gear House". Early twentieth century. Contributing. The "gear house," as it was known by the Crews family, is a small, vertical board, gable front shed used to shelter equipment for both the farm and factory.

8. Barn. 1891. Contributing. This heavy timber frame barn has vertical board siding, much of which has deteriorated or is missing. It is a double pen barn with a hayloft and a gable tin roof. The attached storage shed on the south side was added later and is in ruinous condition.

9. Smokestack. 1891. Contributing. This 65-foot tall brick structure was the smokestack of the 1891 Crews Tobacco Factory, a four story frame building which later became a roller mill and burned in 1911. The stack is square in section, tapers at the top, and has a corbeled cap. There is a round opening near the base of the structure, the purpose of which is not clear.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Thomas A. Crews House
Forsyth County
North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 7

Summary:

The Thomas A. Crews House is the best surviving example of vernacular Queen Anne architecture in Walkertown, N.C., a rural community northeast of Winston-Salem. In addition, it is the only property in the town which is associated with the life of Thomas A. Crews, one of Walkertown and Forsyth County's leading citizens. Crews, who built the house in 1891 and lived in it until his death in 1940, also built a factory next door to the house. The Crews House is a two-story, frame dwelling with a wraparound porch, set amidst a grove of trees and flanked by seven outbuildings and the brick smokestack of the former Crews Tobacco Factory. The collection of outbuildings includes a smokehouse and wash house which are among the best examples of their types remaining in Forsyth County. The brick smokestack still stands on the property as a reminder of Thomas Crews's role in Walkertown's industrial heyday at the turn of the century. Crews, along with his brother, James, built the T. A. Crews Tobacco Factory in 1891. The Crews brands were purchased in 1904 by a tobacco conglomerate, and the factory was converted into the Walkertown Milling Company. After the building burned in 1911, Crews entered the wholesale produce business. Although he is most important as an industrialist, Crews's successes in that area may be cited as a factor in his leadership in the community, both as a leader in Love's Methodist Church and as a benefactor of the local school system. The Crews House fulfills Criteria B and C by its association with Thomas Crews and by its distinctiveness as the best example of Queen Anne architecture in Walkertown.

Architectural Context:

The Thomas A. Crews House, along with its outbuildings, is the best surviving example of Queen Anne-style architecture in the town of Walkertown. It was built in 1891 in the middle of town, but Walkertown was a rural community, and the outbuildings and fields around the Crews House reflect this. After the Roanoke and Southern Railroad line from Winston to Roanoke was built through Walkertown in 1889, the town grew with more industry, such as the Crews Tobacco Factory, and more money went into building houses. Advances in building techniques such as the balloon frame, the availability of stock building materials,, and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Thomas A. Crews House
Forsyth County
North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 8

the arrival of the railroad which made the new techniques and materials more accessible, all contributed to the changing architectural character of Walkertown and the rest of Forsyth County around the turn of the century.

Many turn-of-the-century houses in rural Forsyth County, including the Crews House in Walkertown, exhibited some characteristics of the Queen Anne style of architecture popularized by the English architect, Richard Norman Shaw. The term "Queen Anne" was coined to describe the eclecticism associated with these buildings. During the reign of Queen Anne in England there was a transitional period in architecture when buildings of medieval form received classical ornament and therefore became the forerunners of the sort of mixture of details which epitomized the Queen Anne style around 1900. Queen Anne architects reasoned that no period of history had produced the perfect architectural expression, so it was logical to take the best aspects of many periods and use them together to derive the most benefit from the past (Taylor, 48). The Queen Anne style manifested itself in rural Forsyth County in houses with steep roofs and intersecting gables, assymetrical massing, wide wrap-around porches, projecting bays, sawnwork ornament, decorative roof materials, and free-flowing interior plans (Taylor, 51). The Thomas Crews House exhibits all of these characteristics.

Other Queen Anne-influenced houses that survive in Walkertown from the turn of the century include the Dr. J. C. Hammack House, 3092 Main St., and the Dicks-Moir House on N.C. 311. The Hammack House, built in 1908 approximately one block south of the Crews House, is a two-story frame, Queen Anne-influenced house with intersecting gables and a wrap-around porch. A small house for Dr. Hammack's office stands in the side yard, and a carriage house stands behind the house. The Hammack House has been altered with the addition of vinyl siding, and the wrap-around porch features Tuscan columns on brick piers (Taylor, 165). The Dicks-Moir House, built by Dr. W. P. Dicks probably around 1895, is a two story T-shaped house which faces the railroad tracks north of the Crews House. (Laura Dicks Moir, Dr. Dicks's daughter, continued to live in the house after her marriage.) The Dicks-Moir House features a Queen Anne-influenced wrap-around porch with sawnwork brackets and turned posts. In addition, it is identical to the Crews House with its French doors which lead onto the north side of the porch. Prior to the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Thomas A. Crews House
Forsyth County
North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 9

1911 addition, the Crews House may have looked much like the Dicks-Moir House. The Crews House, however, set back from the road amidst a grove of trees and surrounding fields, remains the most fully-developed and best preserved example of Walkertown's late nineteenth century Queen Anne domestic architecture.

The outbuildings accompanying the Thomas Crews House reflect the rural nature of the property. Tobacco was grown in the fields behind the house, and the barn housed farm animals and machinery. The chicken house, wood shed, and "gear house" or equipment shed all served the Crews family during the period 1891 to 1940. The two outbuildings closest to the rear of the house, the smoke house and the wash house, are among the best examples of their types remaining in Forsyth County. The frame smoke house with its windowed ante-room which once housed a salt box and a place to salt the hams is the most elaborate example in the county, and the wash house may be the only one of its kind in rural Forsyth County built of brick and having a brick oven and built-in iron pots. Many small farms in Forsyth County retain turn-of-the-century outbuildings such as smokehouses, barns, wood sheds, and chicken houses. These buildings are most often log or frame with dirt floors. Surviving wash houses are not common, either frame or brick. The well-finished Crews smoke house and wash house, therefore, are unusually fine examples in Forsyth County. They certainly are the most distinctive examples and part of the largest intact collection of outbuildings which remain in Walkertown.

Industrial Context:

The brick smokestack which stands to the south of the Thomas Crews House is the only physical remnant of Walkertown's thriving industries in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. With no conveniently accessible water source and no fire department, many of Walkertown's early factories and other buildings succumbed to fires. The Walkertown Chair Factory, Love's Methodist Church, and the Crews Tobacco Factory which had become a roller mill all burned before 1913. The Chair Factory and Love's Church were both rebuilt, only to burn again in 1940 and 1947, respectively. Crews's Walkertown Milling Company was never rebuilt. The smokestack, however, is a reminder of Walkertown's industrial heyday around the turn of the century and the fact that this heyday was shortlived. By 1916 Thomas Crews

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Thomas A. Crews House
Forsyth County
North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 10

was commuting into Winston-Salem where he had entered the produce business. Generations of Walkertown's people followed Crews's example and went to work in Winston.

The coming of the Roanoke and Southern Railroad in 1889 marked a turning point in Walkertown's industrial history, as well as that of Winston. The importance of this rail line to the Forsyth County communities it touched cannot be overstated. One historian wrote: "The history of Winston as an important manufacturing century actually dates from the completion of the Roanoke line in 1889. By securing this road Winston interests not only destroyed Danville's threat as a rival in the manufacturing of tobacco but also drew the not inconsiderable manufacturing interests of Martinsville into their orbit" (Fries, 189). Even in the late 1920s the railroad was still playing a crucial role in the life of Walkertown, although the tobacco factories were gone. Dr. O. L. Ader remembered that in 1926 messages were received by telegraph at the depot; passengers still rode the train and stopped in Walkertown, and boxes of freight were delivered. Passengers could stop between depots at certain places along the route "before the arrival of the Ford and improved highways" (Walkertown, 48).

Only one tobacco manufacturer, N. D. Sullivan, Thomas Crews's uncle in nearby Sullivantown, was producing plug and twist tobacco in the Walkertown vicinity before the railroad came. (The Kerner and Greenfield tobacco factory had begun in 1881 in Kernersville, and there were several tobacco factories in Winston.) In 1891, after the rail line to the tobacco markets in western Virginia had been completed, Thomas Crews, along with his brother, James, opened his own tobacco factory, and Edwin M. Leight opened a factory to supply the tobacco factories with boxes. The T. A. Crews Tobacco Company met success with brands such as "Crews Netted Gem" and "Pride of America," and Crews expanded his factory in 1895. At its height the Crews factory employed 350 workers in a three-story factory, and Nat Crews, Thomas Crews's son, recalled in a 1960 newspaper interview that: "The Crews Tobacco Company was largely responsible for creating a stable community, as a number of employees settled there, constructed homes and engaged in farming in addition to their factory work" (Bost).

Its success was short-lived, however, as Thomas Crews became one of the many small manufacturers of chewing tobacco to confront James B. Duke's plan to dominate the industry. Even R.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetThomas A. Crews House
Forsyth County
North CarolinaSection number 8 Page 11

J. Reynolds had to play into Duke's hand to stay afloat; in 1899 Reynolds's company became a subsidiary of Duke's Continental Tobacco Company with the purpose of consolidating the flat-plug chewing tobacco industry of the Virginia-Carolina area. Part of the strategy with which Reynolds accomplished the consolidation was to acquire, sometimes secretly, tobacco companies which would, in turn, acquire other brands for Reynolds. It was through this method that the Liipfert-Scales Tobacco Company purchased the T. A. Crews Company and its nineteen brands of chewing tobacco in 1904 (Tilley, 96-116). Records of the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company indicate that on March 31, 1904, "Thomas A. Crews and James W. Crews, tobacco manufacturers in Walkertown under the firm name of T. A. Crews, agreed to sell all their manufactured tobacco, brands, tags, goodwill, formulas, trademarks, and secret processes to Liipfert-Scales for \$1,000" (Tilley, 116). Crews family records, however, contain an October 8, 1904 letter to T. A. Crews from Liipfert-Scales stating, "Enclosed we hand you our check for \$2000 to apply on our account." At any rate, the tobacco company was sold, and the building converted into a roller mill, the Walkertown Milling Company, for the production of flour and feed (Walkertown, 30-31; Crews records).

It was in its capacity as a roller mill that the building burned in 1911, leaving the smokestack to serve as a reminder of Walkertown's industry. According to Nancy Crews Headen, T. A.'s daughter, the mill burned in 1911, when she was four, and the family feared for the safety of their home until the wind shifted (Sallie Johnson interview with Nancy Headen). An undated newspaper article states: "Then in 1911 the factory burned to the ground in what was one of the biggest fires that area has ever had. A strong wind blew some of the old paper plug tags as far as Kernersville" (Crews records). A wind blowing south toward Kernersville would have kept the fire away from the house as Nancy remembered.

The smokestack's proximity to the house, however, serves as a reminder of the interconnectedness between early industry and the daily life of small communities such as Walkertown, but the fact that the mill was never rebuilt also illustrates Walkertown's emerging role as a commuter town where many people rode the train, and later cars, into to Winston-Salem for work. By 1916 Crews had joined with N.P. Stone to open a wholesale grocery business on East Third Street in Winston-Salem, and by 1918 he also operated the Crews Produce Co. From 1771, when

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Thomas A. Crews House
Forsyth County
North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 12

Matthew Miksch opened his tobacco shop in Salem and lived upstairs, until the last years of the nineteenth century, tobacco manufactories in Forsyth County often were located near their proprietors. The Crews Factory was no exception. Small towns such as Walkertown and Kernersville had tobacco factories on the main street in the midst of fine residential areas until the twentieth century, but in larger towns like Winston, this trend began to change with the advent of the streetcar. With the transportation opportunity of the streetcar, suburbs like Winston's West End developed in the 1890s where industrialists and businessmen could live away from their places of work and still have easy access to them. The smokestack from the Crews Tobacco Factory has been a local landmark in Walkertown for most of the twentieth century, and its juxtaposition to the Crews House reminds residents of the industrial heritage of their community and the part played by Thomas Crews.

Historical Background:

Although the early history of Walkertown is unclear, a man named Robert Walker owned a tract of land northeast of Salem in the vicinity of present-day Walkertown as early as 1771. The area became a center for Methodist settlement by the 1790s when James Love preached and settled there (Walkertown, 4). By 1848 a post office had been established for "Walkerstown" in then-Stokes County (Forsyth was formed in 1849), which changed to "Walkertown" in 1888 (Walkertown, 15).

Thomas Crews's grandfather was Thomas Sullivan who lived in Sullivantown, a settlement about two miles northeast of Walkertown. Thomas Sullivan began the manufacture of tobacco here around 1850, and his son, Nathaniel D. Sullivan, built another tobacco factory in Sullivantown. "Nat" Sullivan employed his orphaned nephews, Thomas and James Crews, in this factory before they built their own factory in Walkertown in 1891 (Walkertown, 28). Thomas and James were the only sons of Nat Sullivan's sister, Sallie, and Madison Caswell Crews. Sallie died a few months after Thomas's birth in April, 1860, and his father, M.C. Crews remarried and moved to Kernersville. Thomas and James were brought up by relatives, and Thomas lived with his mother's unmarried sister, Elizabeth Sullivan, and his grandfather, Thomas A. Sullivan.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetThomas A. Crews House
Forsyth County
North CarolinaSection number 8 Page 13

In November, 1890, when Thomas was thirty years old, he purchased 21 acres of land in Walkertown along "Sullivan's Road" and "the public road leading from Kernersville to Walnut Cove" (Deed). It was on this land that he planned to build a house and a tobacco factory, and he accomplished both during 1891 (Crews records). Still unmarried, Thomas Crews moved into house with his aunt, Elizabeth, in 1891, and she continued to live in the house with Thomas and his wife, Mary Frances Paschall Crews, after their marriage on October 27, 1892. Elizabeth Sullivan died in 1901 (Crews records).

Mary Frances Paschall Crews grew up in Reidsville, N. C., and graduated from Salem College in 1886. She met Thomas Crews during a weekend visit to a Salem friend, Laura Dicks, from Walkertown. Laura's father, Dr. W. P. Dicks, had built a vernacular Queen Anne house across from the railroad depot. According to family tradition, Mary Frances met T. A. Crews when he was loading tobacco at the depot.

Mary Frances and Thomas Crews had five girls and four boys, born between September, 1893, and November, 1911. The Crews House probably was expanded in 1911 in anticipation of the birth of the ninth child, William Moir Crews. Also in 1911, however, the former Crews Tobacco Company factory, now the Walkertown Milling Company burned. Crews did not rebuild the milling company, but he entered the wholesale grocery business with N. P. Stone in Winston. Stone and Crews, wholesale grocers, and Crews Produce Company operated from around 1916 until 1920, when Crews "retired from active business" (Journal, 1940). Even after he began to work in Winston, however, Crews remained a leader in Walkertown, and after his retirement he continued his civic efforts. He served on the Forsyth Highway Commission in 1922 (Crews records).

Thomas Crews's contributions to the civic life of Walkertown began at least as early as 1896, when he served as secretary of the Board of Trustees of Love's Methodist Church, the earliest church in Walkertown (Crews records). Local tradition maintains that the church was begun in 1791 by James Love, and by 1799 a bishop noted that the church had glass windows and a fenced in yard. By 1859 Love's was the largest Methodist church in Forsyth County, and in 1888 a new church was built. The congregation continued to grow as Walkertown grew in the late nineteenth century, but in 1899 the church burned (Walkertown, 4). T. A. Crews was secretary-treasurer of the Board of Stewards of Love's in 1900 when the church was rebuilt (Crews records). A 1939

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Thomas A. Crews House
Forsyth County
North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 14

newspaper article featuring Thomas Crews stated that "The present large Love's Methodist Church was built in 1900 under the direction of three men. Crews was one of those men, spending nearly a year of his time and much money. Since the building was finished and for years before the other church was destroyed by fire, Crews has been a steward in the church." (Journal, 1939)

Thomas Crews also played a major role in the development of Walkertown's public schools. Crews, a graduate of Trinity College (now Duke University), started a school in Walkertown in 1896 (Crews records). In the history of Love's Methodist, Larry Tise documented that "Rev. H. H. Jordan, serving Love's from 1903 to 1905, helped support the small local private school established by T. A. Crews by sending his son, Everette, who later became the Honorable B. Everette Jordan, U. S. Senator from North Carolina" (Walkertown, 18-19). Later it was through the efforts of Thomas Crews that the first high school building in Walkertown was erected in 1924, and he served for many years as chairman of the Walkertown School Board (Walkertown, 19; Journal, 1940). A 1939 profile of Crews gave him the credit for "raising the first money and making the first contacts to give Walkertown its modern school, which for years was the largest rural consolidated school in the state" (Journal, 1939).

Perhaps because of Thomas Crews's interest in education, eight of the Crews children (all of the girls and three of the boys) attended or graduated from college, and one, Nathaniel Sullivan Crews, attended Duke University Law School and was a member of the State Legislature. He was also the Forsyth County attorney for many years (Crews records).

Thomas Crews died on December 24, 1940, and Mary Paschall Crews died on March 28, 1950. After Mary Crews's death, her son, James Walter Crews (1909-1983), returned to the Thomas Crews House in 1953 with his wife, Odessa. The James Crews family cared for Mary's sister, Sallie Belle Paschall, and lived in the homeplace with their two daughters, Sallie and Nancy. After Sallie Paschall died in 1958, the James Crews family continued to live in the house. In 1970 James and Odessa Crews purchased the Thomas Crews House from the other heirs. James died on March 16, 1983, and Odessa continues to live in the house (Crews records). In 1992 Odessa Crews and her daughters, Sallie Crews Johnson and Nancy Crews Moretz, spearheaded a renovation effort to return the house to its 1911 appearance and list it in the National Register of Historic Places.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Thomas A. Crews House
Forsyth County
North Carolina

Section number 9 Page 15

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Bost, Sid. "Walkertown--A New Outlook." Twin City Sentinel.
23 August 1960.
- Caldwell, Gowan H. "Tobacco and Boxes Started Walkertown as
a Community After Railroad was Built." Winston-Salem
Journal and Sentinel. 9 April 1933.
- Crews Records. Business correspondence and account books of T.
A. Crews. Crews family memorabilia and genealogy. In
possession of Odessa P. Crews, Walkertown, N. C.
- Forsyth County Records, Office of the Register of Deeds, Forsyth
County Courthouse, Winston-Salem, N. C.
- Fries, Adelaide. Wright, Stuart Thurmond. Hendricks, J. Edwin.
Forsyth, the History of a County on the March. Chapel Hill:
University of North Carolina Press, 1976.
- Johnson, Sallie Crews. Interview with Nancy Crews Headen.
October, 1992.
- Kelly, Pat. "Walkertown Man Started Industry Here." Undated
newspaper article in Crews records.
- "Personalities of the Northwest." Undated article in Crews
records. Winston-Salem Journal. ca. 1939.
- "Mrs. T. A. Crews, Aged 83, Dies." Winston-Salem Journal.
28 March 1950.
- "T. A. Crews, Widely Known Citizen, Dies." Winston-Salem
Journal. 24 December 1940.
- Taylor, Gwynne S. From Frontier to Factory, An Architectural
History of Forsyth County. Winston-Salem: City-County
Planning Board, 1981.
- Tilley, Nannie M. The R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. Chapel
Hill: UNC Press, 1985.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Thomas A. Crews House
Forsyth County
North Carolina

Section number 9 Page 16

Walkertown Bicentennial Committee. Walkertown, 1791-1991. Book
in possession of Odessa P. Crews, Walkertown, N. C.

Weaver, C. E., ed. "Winston-Salem, City of Industry." Winston-
Salem: Winston Printing Company. (Undated, ca. 1919).

Winston-Salem City Directories. 1912, 1915, 1916, 1918.

Wilds, F. Mitchener. Correspondence with Nancy Crews Moretz.
27 September 1991.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Thomas A. Crews House
Forsyth County
North Carolina

Section number 10 Page 17

10. Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property consists of lots 17c and 17d in tax block 2151a, as delineated by the heavy black line on the accompanying tax map.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property contains 7.2 acres of the original 21 acre tract which Thomas A. Crews purchased in 1890. The nominated acreage includes the house and outbuildings and the smokestack from the Crews Tobacco Factory, along with the groves of trees surrounding the house and the fields behind it. The trees and fields convey the physical character of the property during the period from 1891 to 1940. The boundaries encompass all of the land both historically and currently associated with the historic resources.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Thomas A. Crews House
Forsyth County
North Carolina

Section number Photos Page 18

Photographic identification;

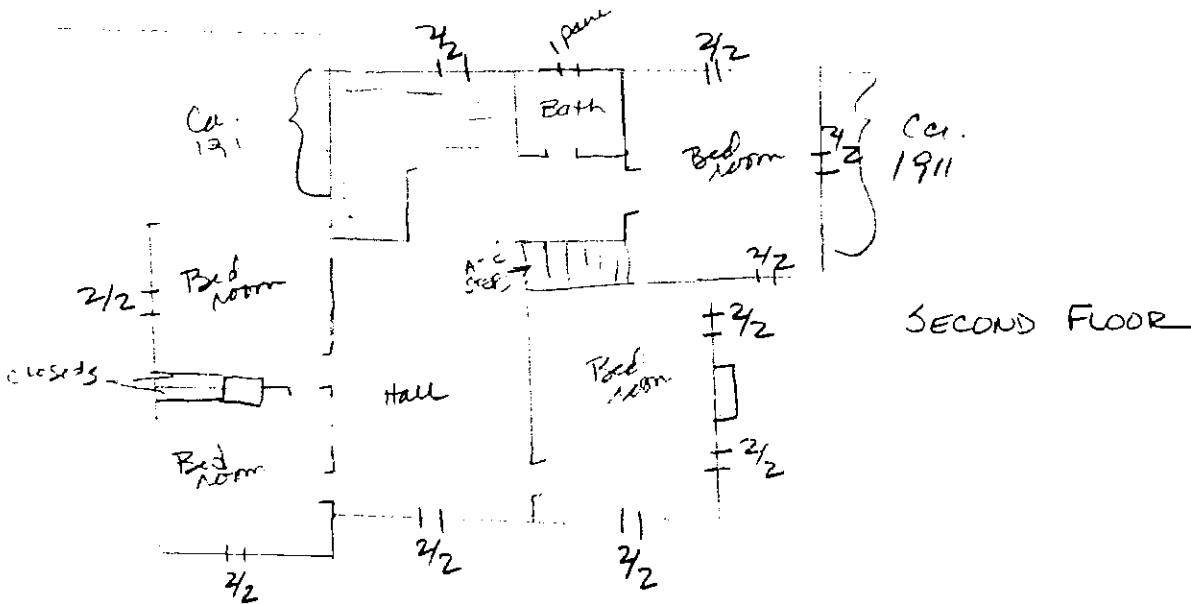
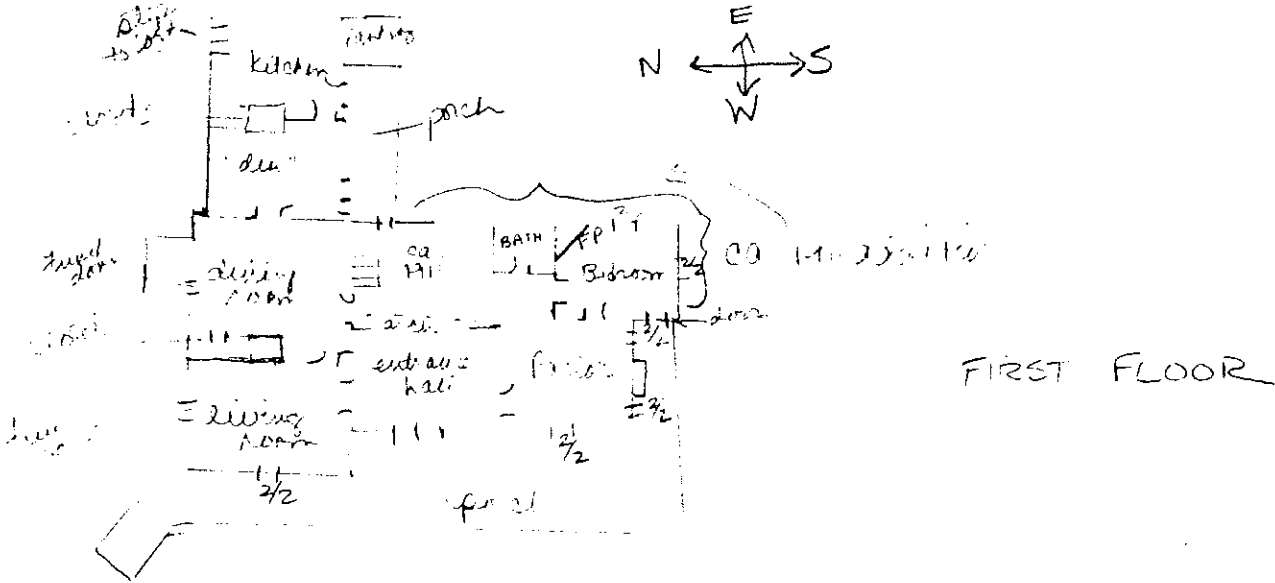
The following applies to all nomination photographs:

- 1) Thomas A. Crews House
- 2) Walkertown, Forsyth County, North Carolina
- 3) Gwynne S. Taylor
- 4) September, 1992
- 5) State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, N. C.
- 6-7) A: overall view, to northeast
- B: south elevation of house, view to north
- C: northwest corner of house, view to southeast
- D: entrance and stair hall, view to east
- E: parlor, view to south
- F: dining room, view to north
- G: stairhall and 1911 addition, view to south
- H: 1911 southeast bedroom, view to northeast
- I: northeast second floor bedroom, view to southwest
- J: (L to R) wash house, chicken house, wood shed, gear house, barn, view to northeast
- K: wash house facade, view to east
- L: smoke house facade, view to east
- M: barn facade, view to east
- N: intersection of Main St. (foreground) and Sullivantown Rd., house in trees, view to southeast
- O: field behind house, view to northwest
- P: field behind house, view to southeast
- Q: smokestack of Crews Tobacco Factory, view to southeast
- R: smokestack detail, view to south
- S: interior wash house, view to east

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

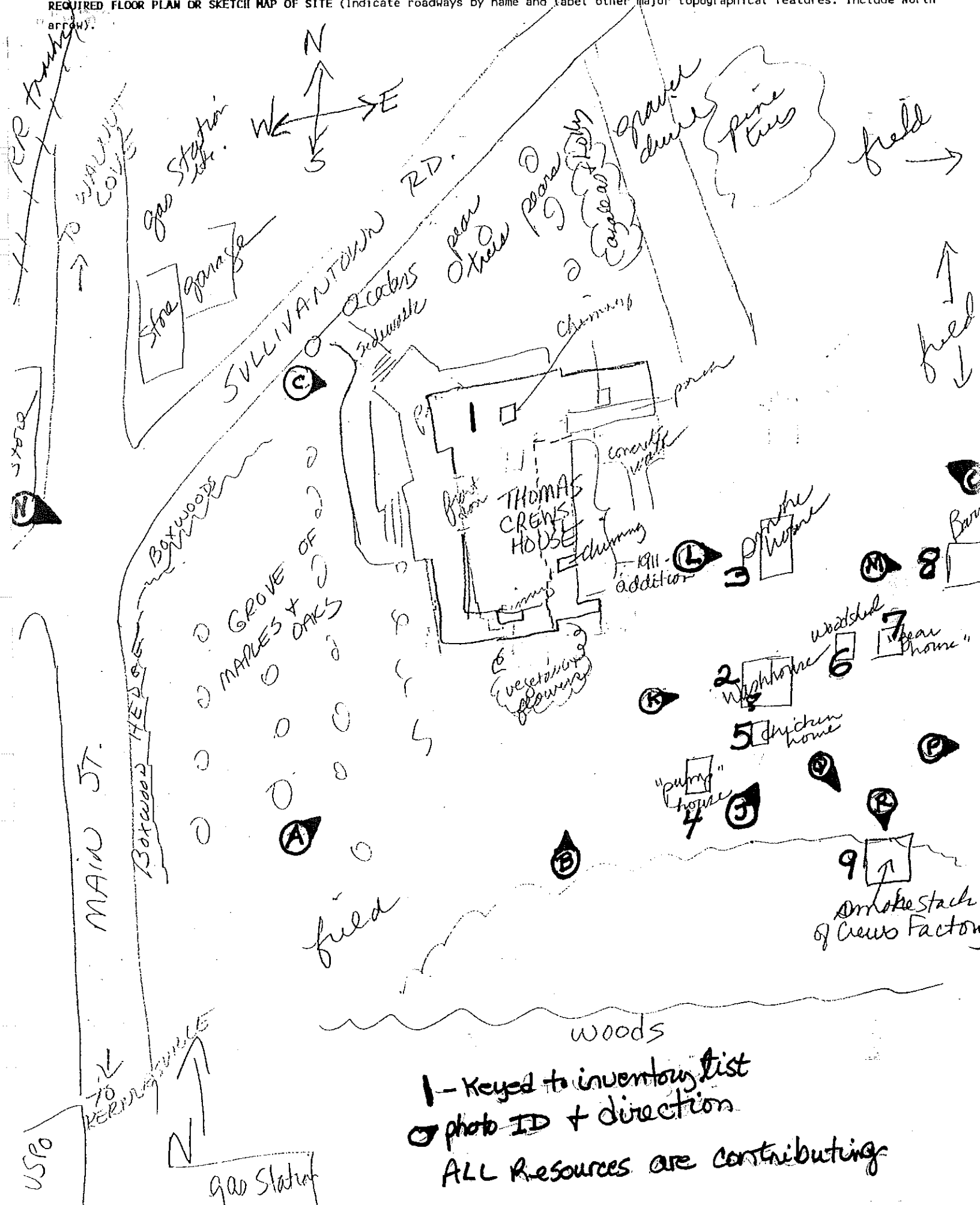
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____



SKETCH MAP - THOMAS A. CRENS HOUSE WALKERTOWN FORSYTH CO. NC

REQUIRED FLOOR PLAN OR SKETCH MAP OF SITE (Indicate roadways by name and label other major topographical features. Include North arrow).



1 - Keyed to inventory list
 ○ - photo ID + direction
 ALL Resources are contributing