

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

received JUN 4 1984

date entered JUL 5 1984

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Crawford-Dorsey House and Cemetery

and or common Same

## 2. Location

~~Northwest corner of the intersection of Freeman Road~~  
street & number and McDonough Road, in southeast part of the county ~~N/A~~ not for publication

city, town Lovejoy v. c. , X vicinity of

state Georgia code 013 county Clayton code 063

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

## 4. Owner of Property

name Clayton County Commission, c/o Mr. Charley Griswell, Chairman

street & number Administration Building

city, town Jonesboro N/A vicinity of state Georgia 30236

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Clayton County Courthouse

city, town Jonesboro state Georgia

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Structures Field Survey:

title Clayton County, Georgia has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1977  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Crawford-Dorsey House and Cemetery consists of a large antebellum house, a historic well shed and well, a historic stone food storage shelter, and a nearby historic family cemetery.

The main house is a two-story Plantation Plain-style structure that may have been two separate houses or have had two separate building periods. The earlier, 1820s portion is on the east side. It has a one-story porch across the front. The later, ca.-1850s house to the west has a two-story portico with Greek Revival details on the porch balustrade. The exterior of both portions is heart-pine clapboard painted white.

Both house portions feature two main front rooms upon entrance, with no hall, two smaller shed rooms at the rear on the first level, and additional rooms on the upper level. Because of originally being two separate buildings, the house has two entrances on the front facade. Both portions contain wainscoting, and Greek Revival doors and mantels, although some of the latter are missing. One mantel in the earlier portion is of Federal design. The newer portion has plastered walls above the chair rail. The house contains hand-hewn and sawn wood and hand-made nails which reflect the efforts of local craftsmen. The house has never been wired for electricity or adapted for modern plumbing.

The house sits on its original rock piers and is open underneath. It is surrounded by several large tulip poplar trees in front and two large spruces on the north side. The pecan trees on the southwest side are recent. A family cemetery is on a rise behind the house. It contains some unusual graves that are covered with shells. Two historic outbuildings survive near the house. A wooden well shed with well is on the north side. Next to it is a low, narrow, stone-and-brick storage structure with a small window on the north side. It has been described as a potato cellar or some other food-storage structure. The other remaining wooden sheds are recent.

Archaeological potential exists due to the house once being part of a large plantation with many necessary outbuildings which are now gone. It was also the site of a Civil War engagement in 1864. No archaeology has been done, however.

The house sits at a rural intersection surrounded by woodlands, open fields, and recently planted pines.

Changes to the house have been minimal and include a new roof added in the early-twentieth century.

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After the death of Mary Shanklin Crawford in 1850, the house and plantation were purchased by Stephen Green Dorsey (1822-1915), a rising planter of the neighborhood. His father, John Dorsey (1780-1870), had settled in the 1820s near the William Crawfords. The Dorseys were an early Marland family who came to Henry County, Georgia, by way of Jones County, Georgia. John Dorsey was married in 1808 to Mary Phillips (1791-1851), daughter of Isham Phillips (1741-1837) and his wife, Mary Dawson. Isham Phillips served in the Revolutionary War in the Georgia Troops and was buried in the Crawford-Dorsey burying ground near the house. His grave, 1837, is one of the earliest in that plot. Mary Phillips Dorsey was buried there in 1851, but her husband, John Dorsey, died in Jones County, Georgia, in 1870, and was not buried in the Crawford-Dorsey graveyard.

Stephen Green Dorsey was married in 1841 to Lucinda McConnell (1824-1894), daughter of James V. McConnell, a prosperous and prominent planter of originally Henry, later Clayton County. As they did not acquire the William Crawford property until after Mary Crawford's death in 1850, it is likely that their first home was on a nearby plantation.

Stephen Green Dorsey was one of the major planters in the locale by the time of the War Between the States. The Clayton County Tax Digest for 1861 reveals that he owned 1,900 acres of land in Clayton County and 500 acres in adjacent Henry County, making a total of 2,400 acres. In 1861, Dorsey owned forty-one slaves and was the largest slaveowner in Clayton County. It is appropriate that his plantation was in the locale later made famous in Margaret Mitchell's novel, Gone With the Wind, and that neighborhood planters included Miss Mitchell's great grandfather, Philip Fitzgerald.

Dorsey regained his fortune after the war, despite the loss of his slaves. He lived to an advanced age, dying in 1915, in his ninety-third year. The Crawford-Dorsey plantation is, therefore, both an antebellum and a postbellum Georgia plantation. Some years before his death, most of the management of the plantation passed to his son, Isham Green Dorsey (1854-1927), who had married the former Rhea Fields (1876-1950) of the local neighborhood.

The Crawford-Dorsey plantation was the scene of a cavalry battle fought on August 20, 1864, between the Northern forces of General Judson Kilpatrick and Confederate forces belonging to Wheeler's Georgia Cavalry. Fighting took place in the fields in front of the house and in the woods behind the house, as well as in the immediate yards. An account of the fight is given in the New York Tribune of September 1, 1864. Dorsey descendants state that Northern officers made headquarters in the house some time during the summer of fall of 1864, and Mrs. Stephen Green Dorsey (Lucinda McConnell Dorsey) was quoted as stating that they "conducted themselves as perfect gentlemen" and did no damage to the house. Damage was done, however, in other raids on the place in 1864.

[continued]

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The Dorsey plantation contained a bonded distillery and local newspapers of the post-war period refer to the fine quality of peach brandy which was produced there. Near the house was a water-powered mill and pond. According to Dr. Walker Lewis Curtis, who was born in 1904 and who was personally acquainted with his great-grandfather, Stephen Green Dorsey, the old slave quarter stood across a field in front of the house (to the east). The row of old cabins was not occupied by the early 1900s, being already in ruins from vacancy and natural decay. Tenant houses were scattered across the plantation by that time.

By 1929, the plantation was owned by Mrs. Annie K. Walker of Cuthbert, Georgia, a descendant of the Dorsey family, and the house was used intermittently as a summer residence for members of the family.

The Crawford and Dorsey families were connected by ties of close friendship and by marriage. In 1832, Althea Frances Dorsey (1816-1892), sister of Stephen Green Dorsey, married Thomas Shanklin Crawford (1806-1894), son of William Crawford. Thomas and Althea (Dorsey) Crawford settled a nearby plantation, which is historically known as the Crawford-Talmadge Plantation and is on the National Register. Thomas Crawford had the second largest plantation in Henry County.

In recent years, the Crawford-Dorsey House was acquired by the Clayton County Water Authority along with a much larger tract. In 1984, they transferred it to Clayton County government. It is now leased to the Clayton County Heritage Association which was formed to preserve and restore this house and to work toward historic preservation goals in Clayton County in general.

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Continuation sheet Bibliography

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Moore, Joseph H., for Clayton County Heritage Association. "Crawford-Dorsey Plantation," Historic Property Information Form, June 23, 1983. On file at the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia. This was based on the census, county history, interviews with Dorsey family members, family papers, Dorsey family history, and published biographical sketches.

"Claim of Stephen G. Dorsey of Clayton County, Georgia, No. 2703," Records of the Commissioners of Claims (Southern Claims Commission), 1871-80, from the National Archives and Records Service.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local History
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1820s, 1850s      **Builder/Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Architecturally, the house is significant because it represents the unusual combination of two houses or house types to form one larger dwelling place on an antebellum plantation. The two-story portico of the later house reflects Greek Revival influences, while neither house contains a central hall or decorative features other than wainscoting, some plastering and mantels. The house lacks any late-nineteenth- or early-twentieth-century modernizations and is thus a good intact example of early-nineteenth-century building materials and techniques. In military history, the house is significant as the site of a Civil War military engagement on August 20, 1864, between Northern and Southern forces. Fighting took place in fields in front of the house and in the woods behind the house. Northern officers are said to have made the house their headquarters during part of 1864. In local history, the house is significant as the homeplace of two locally important families--that of William Crawford (1778-1841), who was among the earliest settlers in the area, and that of Stephen G. Dorsey (1822-1915), who owned one of the largest plantations in the county and in 1861 was the largest slaveowner in Clayton County. Dorsey was also a public servant, serving as one of the county's Justices of the Inferior Court, the highest antebellum county office. After the war, he applied to the Southern Claims Commission for repayment for damages, based on his Union sympathies, even though he was a planter. The cemetery, as well as the house, reflect these local historical associations. These areas of significance support property eligibility under National Register criteria A, C, and D.

Historical Narrative

The part of Georgia in which the Crawford-Dorsey House was built was opened to white settlement in 1821. William Crawford (1778-1841) and his wife, Mary (Shanklin) Crawford (1778-1850), were born and married in Abbeville District, South Carolina. They settled in original Henry, now Clayton County, in the 1820s. (Clayton was formed partly from Henry in 1858.)

At his death in 1841, William Crawford left his plantation and house to his widow, together with four slaves, two cows and calves, two horses, two feather beds and furniture, with the residue of his property divided among his children and grandchildren. Mary Shanklin Crawford continued to live in the house until her death in 1850. She was buried with her husband in the family burying ground near the house. These early graves were marked with bricks and covered with sea shells. Wooden plaques originally gave names and dates, but these have rotted away.

[continued]

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 14.2

Quadrangle name Hampton, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A	<u>16</u>	<u>7497110</u>	<u>3704660</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>16</u>	<u>749940</u>	<u>3704670</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>16</u>	<u>749960</u>	<u>3704580</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D	<u>16</u>	<u>749720</u>	<u>3704380</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property consists of the 12.2 acres owned by the Clayton County Commission in the vicinity of the house and is all the land that remains directly associated with the house, containing the house and outbuildings. The cemetery is a two-acre tract adjacent to the house tract and is all that land associated with the cemetery. The 12.2 Acre tract, known as TRACT I, and the cemetery, are shown on the plat.

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
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state		code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian

Historic Preservation Section

organization Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources date May 7, 1984

street & number 270 Washington Street, S.W. telephone (404) 656-2840

city or town Atlanta state Georgia 30334

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon  
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 5/22/84

**For NPS use only**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 7/5/84

for Alton Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

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

Chief of Registration

# first floor - Dorsey House

Ⓜ window  
ⓓ door

CRAWFORD-DORSEY HOUSE AND CEMETERY  
Vicinity of Lovejoy, Clayton County, Georgia

## FLOOR PLAN

Scale: Not to scale

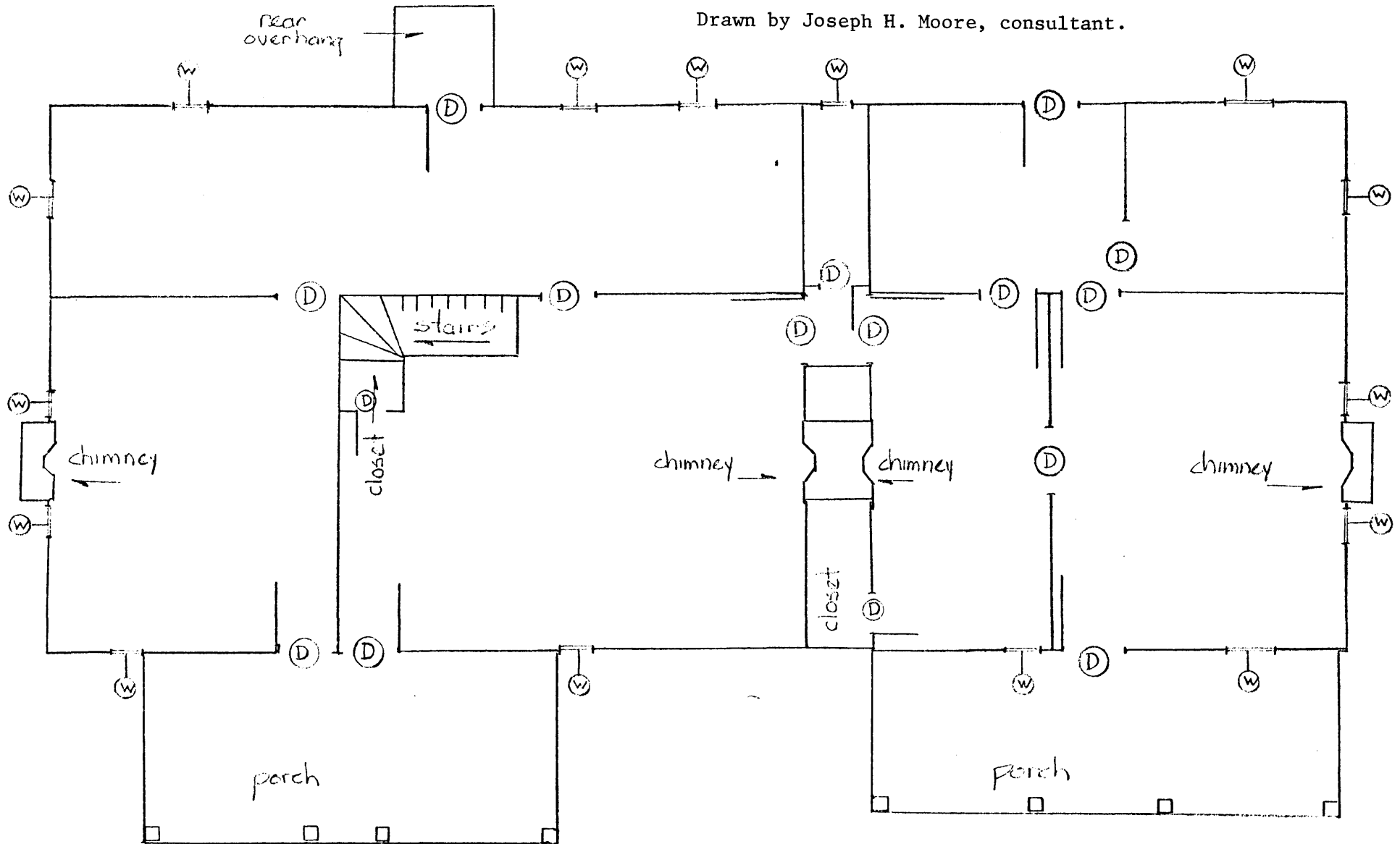
Date: 1983

Key: This is the first floor.

D = Doorways

W = Windows

Drawn by Joseph H. Moore, consultant.





455,128.946	1,256,245.949
455,134.713	1,256,556.851
455,569.062	1,256,549.520
455,910.114	1,256,543.764
455,960.218	1,256,295.769
455,985.254	1,256,141.302
455,740.540	1,255,953.354
455,351.399	1,255,632.719
456,052.720	1,256,185.330
456,035.234	1,256,233.566
455,990.187	1,256,542.412
456,010.303	
456,071.377	
456,136.548	
456,153.199	
458,078.253	
458,060.145	
457,726.149	
457,081.128	
456,456.582	



**CRAWFORD-DORSEY HOUSE AND CEMETERY**  
Vicinity of Lovejoy, Clayton County, Georgia

**TAX MAP/PLAT/ SKETCH MAP**

Scale: 1" = 200'

Source: Survey for Clayton County Water Authority

Date: 1977

Key: The nominated property consists of Tract I and the cemetery. It is marked by a heavy black line.

