



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Historic Resources  
2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Doug Domenech  
*Secretary of Natural Resources*

Kathleen S. Kilpatrick  
*Director*

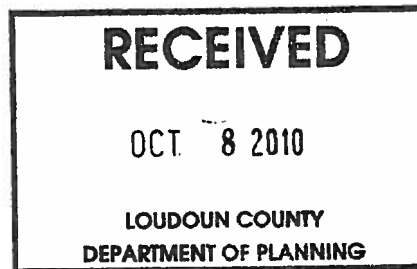
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[www.dhr.virginia.gov](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov)

October 5, 2010

Ms. Heidi Siebentrit  
Historic Preservation Planner  
Department of Planning  
1 Harrison Street, S.E.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Mailstop #62  
Leesburg, VA 20175

Re: Crendal, Loudoun County

Dear Ms. Siebentrit:



The Department of Historic Resources (DHR), Virginia's historic preservation office, is planning to present the enclosed National Register nomination to Virginia's State Review Board and Historic Resources Board for recommendation to the National Register of Historic Places and inclusion in the Virginia Landmarks Register.

Because these resources are within your Certified Local Government, the Architectural Review Board (ARB) is entitled to a sixty-day comment period during which the ARB may review the draft nominations and relay any comments or concerns to the DHR. I hope you will consider the enclosed drafts at your next meeting and relay your comments to us. All comments will be forwarded to the SHPO Director and the Boards for consideration along with the nominations. We have scheduled the nominations for presentation to our boards at 10 am, Thursday, December 16, 2010 in the Halsey Lecture Hall of the Virginia Historical Society at 428 N. Boulevard, Richmond, and would like to receive your comments by that time in fulfillment of the comment period. This letter serves as notification initiating the sixty-day comment period and no further action will be taken on the nominations until we have received your comments or the full sixty-day period has passed.

I look forward to receiving your comments. Should you have any further questions regarding the nominations or the register program, please call me directly at 804-367-2323, extension 115.

Sincerely,

Marc Christian Wagner  
State and National Registers Manager

Enclosures

Administrative Services  
10 Courthouse Ave.  
Petersburg, VA 23803  
Tel: (804) 862-6416  
Fax: (804) 862-6196

Capital Region Office  
2801 Kensington Office  
Richmond, VA 23221  
Tel: (804) 367-2323  
Fax: (804) 367-2391

Tidewater Region Office  
14415 Old Courthouse Way  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Newport News, VA 23608  
Tel: (757) 886-2807  
Fax: (757) 886-2808

Roanoke Region Office  
1030 Penmar Avenue, SE  
Roanoke, VA 24013  
Tel: (540) 857-7585  
Fax: (540) 857-7588

Northern Region  
Preservation Office  
P.O. Box 519  
Stephens City, VA 22655  
Tel: (540) 868-7029  
Fax: (540) 868-7033

## **Crednal, Loudoun County**

### **7. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:**

Located on a 76-acre tract in southwestern Loudoun County, Virginia, Crednal is a fine example of an early-19<sup>th</sup>-century, Federal-style brick dwelling that was constructed around an existing 18<sup>th</sup>-century, vernacular, residential stone core. The most common method of enlarging dwellings during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries was in a linear composition. This is particularly true in Loudoun County where numerous examples of telescope-form houses are found in the Goose Creek Rural Historic District (NR, 1982) located north of Crednal. It was extremely rare to incorporate an existing rectangular unit (in this case, a one-and-one-half-story, one-bay cell) into the geometry of a larger two-story, rectangular building. Although the original stone structure is not visible on the façade of Crednal, it is a startling visual element of the rear elevation. The integration of an existing one-room stone component into a traditional Federal-style brick I-house necessitated the adjustment of the common center-passage-pile plan into an unusual lateral-stair-and-hall plan. No explanation has been found as to why this technique of expansion to the house was employed. Nevertheless, it makes Crednal one of the most unusual early-19<sup>th</sup>-century dwellings in the area and one of the very few, if not the only one, in the county to use this floor plan.

In 1870, a two-story, three-bay frame wing was constructed off the west end of the Crednal house. Two-story front porches on this wing were later enclosed. The house was enlarged again in 1993, when the owners moved a two-story, two-bay, Greek Revival-style brick dwelling that had been slated for demolition from Greene County, Virginia. They attached it, via an enclosed hyphen, to the east end of Crednal. Both of these are diminutive in size and are set back from the front wall plane of the 1814 central brick portion of Crednal and thereby clearly read as additions. Furthermore, neither required adjustment to the floor plan of the older sections of the house.

### **8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

Crednal, an historic estate located in the southwestern portion of Loudoun County, Virginia, is significant as a fascinating example of an evolved Virginia property with the core stone section of its house dating to the last quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The primary section of the main dwelling house dates from ca. 1814 when it was enlarged to provide a home for Richard Welby DeButts and his bride, Louisa Dulany. Rather than demolish the 18<sup>th</sup>-century stone section that had likely served as a tenant house on the property, the Dulanys and DeButts incorporated it into the new Federal-style brick dwelling, creating an unusual transverse-hall plan. Documentary evidence suggests that the estate was improved by Edward Hall, second husband to Louisa Dulany DeButts, in the 1820s with the construction of additional agricultural buildings that are no longer standing. The house was enlarged in the aftermath of the Civil War (ca. 1870) with a frame wing. Crednal was enlarged again in 1993 with the addition of a ca. 1840 house that was saved from demolition in Greene County and moved to this site.

Crednal, which acquired its unique name from the forbears of John Armistead Carter who bought it in 1841, is eligible for the National Register at a local level of significance under Criterion C because of its extremely unusual plan and its surviving pristine rural setting that has defined it for nearly 230 years. It also is eligible under Criterion B in the area of politics and government as the primary and only surviving residence of gentleman farmer, lawyer, and political leader John Armistead Carter, a strong unionist who represented Loudoun County in the Virginia legislature over a three-decade period and who defied tradition and popular political sentiment to vote against Virginia's secession from the Union in the 1861 Virginia Convention. The period of significance spans the years from ca. 1785, when the earliest stone section of Crednal was built, to 1895, when John Armistead Carter died. Crednal's long association with the Carter, DeButts, and Dulany families for nearly two centuries confirms its prominence in the panoply of Northern Virginia estates.

Google maps

Address 34500 Welbourne Rd  
Middleburg, VA 20117

Notes Crendal, Loudoun County



**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 any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional 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 Crednal  
other names/site number DHR # 053-0141

**2. Location**

street & number 34500 Welbourne Road not for publication N/A  
city or town Middleburg vicinity X  
state Virginia code VA county Loudoun code 107 zip code 20117

**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 \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide X locally. (\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

Date

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

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
\_\_\_ entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>  1  </u>	<u> 11 </u>	buildings
<u>  2  </u>	<u>  0 </u>	sites
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  2 </u>	structures
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0 </u>	objects
<u>  3  </u>	<u> 13 </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   0  

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:   Domestic: Single Dwelling    
  Funerary: Cemetery    
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:   Domestic: Single Dwelling    
  Domestic: Secondary Structure    
  Agriculture: Agricultural Outbuilding    
  Funerary: Cemetery  

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

  Early Republic: Federal    
  Other: Vernacular    
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation   STONE    
 roof   METAL    
 walls   BRICK; STONE    
 other   WOOD; BRICK  

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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.
X B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or a grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

GOVERNMENT/POLITICS

Period of Significance ca. 1785-1895

Significant Dates ca. 1785; 1814; 1841; 1861; 1870; 1895

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) John Armistead Carter

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder UNKNOWN

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data

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

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources: Richmond, Virginia

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 76 acres

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

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1			2		3			4			

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Maral S. Kalbian, Architectural Historian; Margaret T. Peters, Historian

organization Maral S. Kalbian, LLC date August 26, 2010

street & number P.O. Box 468 telephone 540-955-1231

city or town Berryville state VA zip code 22611

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

- Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs** Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Anna and Stanley Dees

street & number 34500 Welbourne Road telephone 540.592.3803

city or town Middleburg state VA zip code 20117

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
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Crednal  
Loudoun County, Virginia

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**7. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:**

Located on a 76-acre tract in southwestern Loudoun County, Virginia, Crednal is a fine example of an early-19<sup>th</sup>-century, Federal-style brick dwelling that was constructed around an existing 18<sup>th</sup>-century, vernacular, residential stone core. The most common method of enlarging dwellings during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries was in a linear composition. This is particularly true in Loudoun County where numerous examples of telescope-form houses are found in the Goose Creek Rural Historic District (NR, 1982) located north of Crednal. It was extremely rare to incorporate an existing rectangular unit (in this case, a one-and-one-half-story, one-bay cell) into the geometry of a larger two-story, rectangular building. Although the original stone structure is not visible on the façade of Crednal, it is a startling visual element of the rear elevation. The integration of an existing one-room stone component into a traditional Federal-style brick I-house necessitated the adjustment of the common center-passage-pile plan into an unusual lateral-stair-and-hall plan. No explanation has been found as to why this technique of expansion to the house was employed. Nevertheless, it makes Crednal one of the most unusual early-19<sup>th</sup>-century dwellings in the area and one of the very few, if not the only one, in the county to use this floor plan.

In 1870, a two-story, three-bay frame wing was constructed off the west end of the Crednal house. Two-story front porches on this wing were later enclosed. The house was enlarged again in 1993, when the owners moved a two-story, two-bay, Greek Revival-style brick dwelling that had been slated for demolition from Greene County, Virginia. They attached it, via an enclosed hyphen, to the east end of Crednal. Both of these are diminutive in size and are set back from the front wall plane of the 1814 central brick portion of Crednal and thereby clearly read as additions. Furthermore, neither required adjustment to the floor plan of the older sections of the house.

**ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS:**

Crednal is sited about two and one-half miles southwest of the village of Unison (NR, 2003) in southwestern Loudoun County. Located off the north side of Welbourne Road, the long graveled driveway leads straight to the well-preserved house with an offshoot to the east that leads to outbuildings, most of which are located behind the house. The property's rural setting is distinguished by the stone and wood fences defining open agricultural land that is now used for the grazing of horses.

Crednal is located on the north side of Welbourne Road, a graveled, stone wall-lined lane that runs between the communities of Willisville and St. Louis. A long graveled drive flanked by mature trees extends north through agricultural fields to a circular drive and the main dwelling at Crednal. A stone retaining wall lines the northern portion of the circle, giving way to stone steps leading to the main house. Granite steps with wrought iron handrails and balustrade rise up to the landing at the front door. The residential yard surrounding the house is landscaped with mature trees, shrubs, and foundation



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plantings. An offshoot of the gravel driveway extends east of the dwelling and leads past the garage, the barn, two log dwellings, and a former summer kitchen, all of which were moved to the site in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The drive continues past an agricultural field that contains a small modern stable and turn-out shed and terminates toward the rear of the property at another log dwelling that was also moved to the property, and a modern shed. Before ending at the log house, the drive passes to the south of the large Carter family cemetery, which is rectangular in shape and surrounded by a stone wall with an entry through an iron gate on the east side. An unmarked, slave cemetery with uncertain boundaries is located further north near a fence line. Agricultural fields, level and grassy, mark the east and north sections of Crednal and are separated by three- and four-board wooden fences. The southwest quadrant of the property is primarily wooded but also contains paddocks and a run-in shed. A pond lies midway in the western section and the northwest quadrant is partially wooded. Modern tennis courts and a swimming pool are located west of the house but are screened from view by mature plantings. The property is extremely well kempt and retains its historic rural character.

The entire Crednal property is also being included within the Unison Battlefield Historic District (DHR #053-6087), which is currently under way and should be listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places in 2011.

The earliest portion of Crednal is the ca. 1785, one-and-a-half-story, one-bay stone cell in the northwest quadrant of the main brick block of the house. This section measures roughly 16 x 16 feet and is approximately 13 feet in height. It features a narrow multi-light door inset into the north stone wall which leads out to a modern flagstone patio. The fixed 12-light wood-frame window above it features louvered wooden shutters and a brick jack arch that appears to have been added later. Although the stone unit reads as one-and-one-half stories, it is a single height on the interior, suggesting that a loft floor may have been removed. The west end of the stone unit also contains an interior, presumably stone, chimney that has been incorporated into the later chimneys on the house.

The brick section that was built around this earlier stone unit was constructed in 1814 although a date stone in the east gable-end reads "1810." No indication in the historic record of the Crednal property has been found to support the earlier construction date. The date stone is of marble and although imbedded in the plane of the wall, is secured with iron bolts, suggesting it is not an original feature. The 1810 date also appeared on an old sign which was photographed at some point standing at the entrance to the property. The photograph is in the possession of the present owners. The date may have been chosen by some later generation to memorialize the conveyance of the property to the mother-in-law of John Armistead Carter but is unlikely to relate to the construction of the house. The font of the numbers in the sign and the datestone are identical, further suggesting that they were erected at the same time, probably in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The two-story, five-bay, Federal-style Crednal dwelling rests on a raised stone foundation and is

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constructed of Flemish-bond brick on the façade and five-course American bond on the sides and rear. The random-rubble foundation is painted white and the brick walls have been sponge-painted to give the appearance of cream-colored paint that has worn off the brick. The side-gabled roof is covered with standing-seam metal and features overhanging eaves that slightly conceal the handsome mousetooth brick cornice. The roof contains interior-end brick chimneys with corbelled caps. The symmetrically-fenestrated house contains double-hung, wood-sash windows with wooden sills, brick jack arches, and operable louvered wooden shutters. First-story openings hold nine-over-six-sash windows, while the upper story contains six-over-six-sash windows. The basement level is fenestrated with fixed six-light wood windows with brick jack arches. The center bays of the façade (south elevation) and the rear (north elevation) each have a single-leaf, six-paneled wood door with a four-light wood transom and a brick jack arch. The main entry on the façade is accessed by granite steps with a wrought iron railing. This was constructed in 1959, when a wide, one-story, deteriorated wooden porch was removed. The rear entry is accessed by a brick and concrete stoop with steps and a metal railing. A set of stairs leading to a basement entry is located beneath the stoop. The rear elevation of this portion of the house shows the clear delineation of the earlier stone section and features a flagstone patio with a low wall.

In 1870, a two-story, three-bay, frame wing was added off the west end of the brick house. A two-story shed-roofed extension on its façade was originally two-story open porches that were later enclosed. This addition sits on a low solid foundation that has been parged. The side-gabled roof is of standing-seam metal with overhanging eaves and a plain wooden frieze. The building is covered in weatherboard and contains six-over-six-sash, double-hung wood-sash windows, some of which appear to be original. The entry on the façade of this wing is delineated by a door next to a canted bay consisting of a 20-light fixed-sash wood window flanked by 10-light wood casements sheltered by a shed-roofed hood covered in standing-seam metal with a boxed cornice. A similar one-story canted bay window is located on the west end of this frame wing and has a flared half-hipped roof of standing-seam metal. The bay window holds a 24-light fixed wood window flanked by 12-light wood casements. All these features were added during a 1959 restoration of the house. The rear elevation, which is flush with the rear wall plane of the main section of the house, is symmetrical with three bays on the first floor and two on the second. A central rear door leads out to the patio.

Between 1992 and 1993, the current owners moved a two-story, two-bay, Greek Revival-style brick house that was scheduled for demolition in Greene County, Virginia, to their property and attached it to the east end of the Crednal house. A sensitively-designed one-and-a-half-story, side-gabled hyphen with shuttered windows was constructed to attach the Greek Revival-style dwelling to the east end of Crednal. Set on a solid raised brick foundation, the wing is constructed of five-course, Flemish-bond brick and has a hipped roof covered in standing-seam metal with overhanging eaves, an ogee-molded cornice and an interior-end brick chimney with a plain cap. The walls are fenestrated with double-hung, six-over-six-sash, wood windows that are topped by wooden lintels with corner blocks, and flanked by operable louvered wooden shutters. The basement section of the wing contains three-over-

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three-sash wood windows. The main exterior entry to this section is located in the westernmost bay of its façade. The double-leaf paneled wood door is topped by a four-light transom and contains a wooden lintel with corner blocks. It is sheltered by a one-story, one-bay porch that sits on a brick pier foundation and has paired Tuscan column supports, a two-rail balustrade, a half-hipped roof of standing-seam metal, overhanging eaves, a molded wood cornice, and a plain frieze. Wooden steps with a wooden railing provide access to the porch. The rear elevation of this portion of the house extends beyond the rear wall plane of the older portions of the house and contains an entry with stoop.

The interior of Crednal is very well preserved and reflects its early-19<sup>th</sup>-century appearance. Some alterations were made in 1959 and again in the 1980s. Generally all the walls and ceilings are plastered and painted and contain plain nine-inch baseboard and crown molding. The six-inch architrave trim used as the window and door casings is also painted. The random-width wood floors are pine. The basement kitchen area of the central brick portion has a brick floor and exposed beams that show a pattern of lath suggesting that plaster once hung on the ceiling. Some of the interior detailing suggests that parts may have been remodeled or finished in the early 1820s when Edward Hall married Louisa Dulany DeButts and joined her in possession of the property.

The main brick section has a plan with a center passage and a parlor to the right (east) which is accessible from a large opening in the east wall of the passage. Folding doors are said to have once covered the doorway but there is no evidence of them. Bookcases have been constructed along the west wall. The delicate Federal-style mantel along the east wall of the parlor is not original to the house but fits within the architectural style of the period. A doorway has been made in the wall north of the fireplace and provides access to the hyphen and the brick wing that was erected in the 1990s from the Greek Revival-style house moved to the site. The area south of the fireplace has comparable trim. The front and rear, exterior, six-panel doors in the center passage line up with each other but are not centered.

The side stair hall and lower transverse hall are located in the southwest corner of the historic main 1814 section. Two windows along the south wall provide natural light and the one to the west interferes slightly with several of the stairs leading up to the second-floor landing. The staircase features elegantly-turned newels on plinths, rectangular balusters, and a gracefully executed gooseneck-ramped walnut handrail. All elements of the stair are painted except the handrail and treads. The stair continues up to a landing with a doorway into the west wing. It then turns and continues to the second-floor hall and turns again up to the finished attic.

A cased opening in the front of the entrance hall contains three steps that lead down to a small landing that provides access to either the steps that continue up along the south wall to the second floor or down two steps to the transverse hall that leads to the rest of the first floor and the basement. A doorway along the north wall of the transverse hall, which has paneled reveals and contains double-leaf

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three-paneled hinged doors, leads into the original stone section of the house. This single room has a 13-foot-tall ceiling, four-inch plain base, and plain architrave door trim. A modern denticulated cornice shelf runs along part of the upper portion of the room and may have been the location of an original loft floor. An exterior door is located along the north wall with a fixed frieze window above it. Along the east wall is an enclosed window opening with a wooden sill that presumably was on an exterior wall. The west wall contains the chimney which has no opening but projects slightly from the wall. It is flanked by a built-in cupboard to the right and a narrow doorway leading into the 1870 side frame wing to its left. During the 1959 renovation of the house, the kitchen was moved from the basement of the brick section to this room. It was moved back to its original location in the later 1970s by the present owners.

The transverse hall also contains a run of stairs down to the basement, above which is a panel of the balustrade, located within the cased opening of the center passage. The basement that contains the kitchen is directly beneath the center passage and the parlor. A stone fireplace with a brick jack arch is located along the east wall. The exposed ceiling beams show pit- and sash-sawn marks as well as evidence that they were originally covered in plaster. Chamfered wood posts that came from the mill in Aldie, Virginia, are used as supplemental support to the massive hand-hewn summer beam. The walls in the kitchen are stone with some plaster painted white and the brick floor is laid in a herringbone pattern. A doorway in the northeast corner leads to the hyphen and east wing.

The second floor of the main brick section is comprised of a lateral hallway along the south side with two rooms to the north and a large bedroom at the east end. The upstairs contains plastered walls and ceilings and original random-width wood flooring. The architrave trim is a bit narrower than that on the first floor and the rooms have baseboard trim, but no cornice. Two of the upstairs rooms retain original mantels, both of which are similar in design and follow a vernacular Federal-style pattern of fluted Doric pilasters on plinths supporting a plain frieze with a stepped molding that is repeated in the stepped knifeshelf beneath the mantelshelf. Original, narrow built-in closets with six-panel doors flank the mantel in the northwest room. The east bedroom has a built-in closet to the right of the mantel, while the doorway to the left leads to the east brick wing.

The attic of the main block contains two finished rooms. Small hatches in the ceilings of both rooms provide access to the attic framing. The attic rafters are hand-hewn square logs that are pegged together. Some sheathing beneath the metal roof has circular-sawn marks and is obviously not original.

The first floor of the 1870 frame wing is comprised of a lateral hall along the south side with a bathroom at its west end and an exterior door along its south wall. A doorway along the north wall leads into the large living room that is also accessible from an exterior north door and the narrow doorway from the stone section of the main block. Along its east wall, the large room has a fine

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vernacular Greek Revival-style mantel with plain Doric pilasters supporting a plain frieze and mantelshelf. The second floor of the west wing follows a similar floorplan with access from a landing off the main stair. The southern hall, which was originally an open porch, retains the original, exterior German-lap siding along its north wall. It contains a doorway into the north room as well as a bathroom.

The east wing that was moved here in the early 1990s from Greene County, Virginia, is a side-passage, single-pile house known as Chatsworth and was the home of Dr. John May Burton, a prominent mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century physician. All the woodwork in this section of the house is of the Greek Revival style in design.

Northwest of the main house at Crednal is the Carter-family cemetery. The rectangular burial area contains a large tree at its center and is surrounded by a stone fence with a wrought-iron gate along its east side. It contains approximately twenty marked burials including those of John Armistead Carter's two young children, his son Richard Welby Carter, Sophie Debutts Carter, several of their children and spouses who were members of the Richardson, Wood, and Marshall families. There are unmarked grave sites that presumably are the burial places of John Armistead Carter and his wife Richardetta DeButts Carter. To the north of this cemetery is an overgrown area with an 1896 marked headstone of Julia Evans, a mulatto woman, who may have been a former slave at Crednal. It is believed this spot contains a larger African-American cemetery.

Although Crednal contains many outbuildings that are historic, they are not considered contributing to this nomination because they were all moved to the property from various locations during the last three decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (see inventory below). The swimming pool dates to the late 1960s and the tennis courts from the early 1980s, both non-contributing structures. The stable and the two turn-out sheds were constructed in the 1980s and the small brick furnace house in the early 1990s, all non-contributing buildings.

An aerial photograph of Crednal (ca. 1930) provides a fascinating glimpse of the property at the time. It shows the main house with a three-bay front porch with stairs along the front and east side. A one-story gable-roofed wing (now gone) extends off the east end of the brick section and may have been a shelter over an exterior access to the basement. The photograph also shows the 1870 side wing to the west. Multiple outbuildings are depicted in the photograph, none of which are extant and none of which appear to pre-date the Civil War when the barns and outbuilding on Crednal most likely were burned. This suggests the potential for archeological sites on the property. The buildings identified in the photo include a one-story gable-roofed building with a full-width porch located southwest of the house and a two-story gable-end single-bay building behind the house along with two shed-roofed chicken coops. A large square-shaped building east of the house appears to have been a meat house and has a one-story gable-roofed building directly behind it. Multiple barns and a corncrib are located

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further north of the house. The stone wall surrounding the Carter-family cemetery is also evident. The driveway with its termination in a circle in front of the house seem to be an original feature of the layout of the property as does the setting and configuration of the resources.

**RESOURCE INVENTORY:**

**Contributing**

Main House	1 contributing building
Carter family Cemetery	1 contributing site
Evans (African-American) Cemetery	1 contributing site

**Non-contributing**

Barn	1 non-contributing building
Turn-out shed (2)	2 non-contributing buildings
Log cabin (3)	3 non-contributing buildings
Shed	1 non-contributing building
Stable	1 non-contributing building
Garage	1 non-contributing building
Summer kitchen	1 non-contributing building
Furnace house	1 non-contributing building
Swimming Pool	1 non-contributing structure
Tennis Court	1 non-contributing structure

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**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

Crednal, an historic estate located in the southwestern portion of Loudoun County, Virginia, is significant as a fascinating example of an evolved Virginia property with the core stone section of its house dating to the last quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The primary section of the main dwelling house dates from ca. 1814 when it was enlarged to provide a home for Richard Welby DeButts and his bride, Louisa Dulany. Rather than demolish the 18<sup>th</sup>-century stone section that had likely served as a tenant house on the property, the Dulanys and DeButts incorporated it into the new Federal-style brick dwelling, creating an unusual transverse-hall plan. Documentary evidence suggests that the estate was improved by Edward Hall, second husband to Louisa Dulany DeButts, in the 1820s with the construction of additional agricultural buildings that are no longer standing. The house was enlarged in the aftermath of the Civil War (ca. 1870) with a frame wing. Crednal was enlarged again in 1993 with the addition of a ca. 1840 house that was saved from demolition in Greene County and moved to this site.

The dwelling at Crednal boasts associations with several prominent Virginia families, including the Dulanys, the DeButts, the Halls and most prominently the Carters of Sabine Hall in Richmond County. The Carters were one of the leading Tidewater families who chose to settle in the northwestern portions of Virginia, establishing themselves as leaders in the gentry of that region. Located immediately across the road from Welbourne (NR, 1971), the home of John Peyton Dulany and his descendants, Crednal today encompasses approximately 76 acres of the more than 700-acre-19<sup>th</sup>-century size of rich northern Virginia piedmont farmland. Beyond that, it features a Carter family cemetery that dates to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and a second cemetery that likely served Crednal's former slave residents. Although most of the other structures on the estate along with an addition linked to the main dwelling were relocated from other places or constructed in the middle decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Crednal retains its original pristine setting in the foothills of the Blue Ridge, just as it was aptly described in early-19<sup>th</sup>-century land tax books. Crednal was most notably home to John Armistead Carter, a leading citizen of Loudoun County who represented Loudoun at the significant 1861 Virginia Convention that voted to secede from the Union. Carter was in the minority who voted against secession, representing the sentiments of at least some of his Loudoun neighbors. Complete acceptance of that critical vote characterized Carter and his son Richard Welby Carter, the latter of whom went on to serve the Confederacy, as a distinguished cavalry officer.

Crednal, which acquired its unique name from the forbears of John Armistead Carter who bought it in 1841, is eligible for the National Register at a local level of significance under Criterion C because of its extremely unusual plan and its surviving pristine rural setting that has defined it for nearly 230 years. It also is eligible under Criterion B in the area of politics and government as the primary and only surviving residence of gentleman farmer, lawyer, and political leader John Armistead Carter, a strong unionist who represented Loudoun County in the Virginia legislature over a three-decade period

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and who defied tradition and popular political sentiment to vote against Virginia's secession from the Union in the 1861 Virginia Convention. The period of significance spans the years from ca. 1785, when the earliest stone section of Crednal was built, to 1895, when John Armistead Carter died. Crednal's long association with the Carter, DeButts, and Dulany families for nearly two centuries confirms its prominence in the panoply of Northern Virginia estates.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:**

Crednal stands on what might have been part of the 5,487-acre parcel that was granted to Landon Carter of Sabine Hall in 1732. This land was described as being located "west of the confluence of Panther Skin and Goose Creeks."<sup>1</sup>

The exact parcel on which Crednal stands can first be confirmed in the early 1780s Loudoun County Land Tax Books. While tradition has claimed that the property was owned by Daniel French, attempts to associate French with this Loudoun property in the 18<sup>th</sup>-century documents have failed thus far. For those seeking to make this connection, it should be understood that some of the critical Fairfax County records did not survive the Civil War; those missing records might tell a different story.

On February 4, 1773, in Prince Georges County, Maryland, Benjamin Tasker Dulany, (Jr.) born in Maryland in 1752, married Elizabeth French, born in Fairfax County, in 1755. She was the daughter of Daniel French of Fairfax County who was recorded in the Fairfax Rent Rolls between 1761 and 1771 and was active in the building of Truro Church in Fairfax. He died in 1771. Dulany was the son of Benjamin Dulany, Sr. who died in 1770. Benjamin Dulany, Jr. who lived at Shutters Hill in Fairfax County and died there in 1816, was charged with 2,311 acres in Loudoun County in 1782.<sup>2</sup> Because the tax rate, e.g. the amount taxed per acre, appears higher than most rates for other landowners in the area, it could be surmised that this property might already have had some improvements or buildings. There are no conveyances or wills recorded in Loudoun County or Fairfax County that record how Benjamin Dulany acquired this particular acreage. However, in 1783, the Loudoun land books record that Benjamin Dulany received a 500-acre parcel from James Lewis. James Lewis may have been related to Benjamin Dulany's wife, Elizabeth French, by marriage in an earlier generation, and was likely paying the taxes for her on this property that she inherited from her father Daniel French. The size of this parcel is significant as it is identical in acreage to the property conveyed to John Peyton Dulany in 1811 by his parents Benjamin Dulany and his wife Elizabeth French.<sup>3</sup>

In 1785, the personal property records for Loudoun County record that Benjamin Dulany, Esquire, was being taxed for one white male and 13 slaves.<sup>4</sup> This would suggest that Dulany had an overseer farming his acreage in Loudoun. It appears that the stone core section of Crednal dates from this period and served as a dwelling for Dulany's tenant farmer or overseer. During this time period, it is clear that Dulany was living in Fairfax County, perhaps on land he acquired from his father-in-law,



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Daniel French, that ultimately would be known as Shutters Hill. He and his wife Elizabeth had at least six children born in Fairfax County, including Elizabeth (1772); Benjamin Tasker (1774); Daniel French (1775); Rebecca (1784); Louisa (1785); and John Peyton (1787). His two youngest children, Louisa and John Peyton, would ultimately become owners of, and live on, the properties known as Crednal and Old Welbourne in Loudoun County.

Between 1783 and 1799, Benjamin Dulany was charged in the Loudoun tax books with diminishing acreage, from 261 acres in 1787 to 211 acres in 1788 and 99 acres until 1800 when his name disappears from the land records. However, the Personal Property records confirm the presence of several Dulanys, in two cases listed as paying tax for a single white male and several horses and slaves. Again, these entries point to a tenant occupying the property and suggest some kind of dwelling for that tenant.<sup>5</sup>

That Dulany owned property in Loudoun is further confirmed in a deed dated December 10, 1811, from Benjamin Dulany and his wife Elizabeth of Alexandria to John Peyton Dulany.<sup>6</sup> The text of the deed says "for their natural love and affection...500 acres of land in Loudoun County ...to be laid off former tract of 1,000 acres near Middleburg as shall be agreed upon by said John P. Dulany and Daniel F. Dulany..." Daniel F. Dulany was John Peyton's older brother. Subsequent land tax books for Loudoun County indicate that John P. Dulany was charged with this 500-acre parcel that the 1815 records indicate was split into two equal parcels of 250 acres, both charged to Dulany. Examination of later land books suggest that one of these parcels became the heart of the Crednal estate, and the other became the estate known as Old Welbourne.

Letters written between 1813 and 1815 from MaryAnn Welby DeButts to her brother in England confirm that the house that became Crednal had previously been a tenant house.<sup>7</sup> It was in this time period that two of the Dulany siblings, Louisa and John Peyton, married sister and brother, Mary Ann DeButts and Richard W. DeButts. Both DeButts were born in England and it was their mother whose letters to her brother in England reveal much about the Crednal property. Louisa French Dulany and Richard Welby DeButts were married April 25, 1812, at the Dulany estate of Shutters Hill in Fairfax County. Less than a month later, on May 18, 1812, Mary Ann DeButts married John Peyton Dulany, at the DeButts home in Prince Georges County, Maryland.<sup>8</sup> Both couples planned to live on the Dulany property described in the 1811 deed from Benjamin Dulany and his wife in Loudoun County.

In a letter dated July 4, 1812, to her brother in England, Mary Ann Welby DeButts, Louisa Dulany DeButts' mother-in-law, wrote that "Rich'd in the right of his wife will have a farm in the same neighborhood (as John Peyton Dulany) but cannot take possession of it until proper notice is given to the tenant that resides upon it..." This entry confirms that there was a dwelling on the property, likely the extant stone portion of the present house. In later correspondence with her brother dated February, 1813, Mary Ann Welby DeButts, again stated that "Rich'd (DeButts) has received from his Wife's

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Father and Mother a farm on the same tract esteemed [sic] worth 1,500 pounds which is at present tenanted." She also indicated that her husband Dr. Samuel DeButts proposed to reside in Loudoun for health reasons. She wrote that Richard and Louisa "are to remain here until we choose to return," presumably from Loudoun to their home, Mount Welby, in Maryland. She goes on to say that John (John P. Dulany, her son-in-law), "will accompany us...until Richard's house is fit to receive us, we shall reside with Mr. Dulany." She continued, saying that in light of their debts, "in the meantime Dr. D.B. (Samuel De Butts) and I are going to reside in Virginia to settle on a farm of Richd's which he has in the right of his wife. He and Louisa will remain at Mt. Welby until we wish to return." All of this suggests that Louisa and Richard remained until at least 1816 at Mt. Welby in Maryland, his family's estate, while his parents resided on the property that would become Crednal. It also confirms that whatever needed to be done to make the house livable was completed by 1814. Physical evidence suggests that the date stone of "1810" located in the gable end of the Crednal dwelling was inserted at a later time, possibly as late as the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The selection of the year 1810 may refer to the period when the Dulany ownership of the property with its stone dwelling can be confirmed through the deed for the Crednal and Welbourne property from Benjamin and Elizabeth Dulany to John Peyton Dulany in 1811.

Richard Welby DeButts, referred to as "of Mount Welby," in Maryland, died in May, 1816,<sup>9</sup> and was buried at Mount Welby in Maryland, leaving his wife Louisa and three small children, Mary Millicent (b. 1813, d. 1828); Samuel Welby (b. 1814, d. 1839) and Richardetta (b. 1816, d. 1847) who, according to the DeButts' family genealogy, was born at Crednal in Loudoun County,<sup>10</sup> although it is possible she was born at Mount Welby. Richard W. DeButts died intestate, and his estate accounts were filed in Alexandria (now Arlington County).<sup>11</sup> The account does not reference any land ownership and there is no mention to any property in Loudoun County. The parcel on which Crednal stands appears to have remained in the ownership of John Peyton Dulany, or, at minimum, he continued to pay the taxes on it until the 1820s.<sup>12</sup>

Notations in tax books for 1818-1820 suggest that there was some kind of arrangement between John P. Dulany and Peter Rust, another land owner in Loudoun County in the same neighborhood. A notation in the 1820 tax records for Loudoun under John P. Dulany's name indicates that the building value on one of his 250-acre parcels was "assessed to Peter Rust." This suggests that Rust may have been leasing part of John Dulany's Crednal parcel, including the dwelling. Unfortunately no documents in the Loudoun records describe any such arrangement. What is clear, however, is that Louisa Dulany DeButts and her three children were occupying a fine house in Alexandria in 1820. The personal property tax records for Alexandria indicate she was occupying a dwelling valued at \$3,000 located at Cameron and DeButts streets, owned by Leonard Cook.<sup>13</sup> There does not seem to be any documentation that Louisa DeButts, widow, was living in Loudoun in the immediate years following the death of her husband in 1816.

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Edward Hall married the widow Louisa Dulany DeButts October 24, 1820, in Washington, D. C. Loudoun County tax records point to a transfer of acreage from John P. Dulany to Edward Hall by 1822.<sup>14</sup> The Crednal property never was listed in the name of Louisa Dulany DeButts, but since there are no deeds recorded for a transfer from John P. Dulany to Edward Hall, it can be presumed that she had right to one-half of the acreage from her parents that had been deeded to John P. Dulany in 1811. Nevertheless, by 1827, Edward Hall is charged with 250 acres with \$1,000 of building improvements. For the period between 1822 and 1829, John P. Dulany was paying the taxes on the buildings on the property, which amounted to only \$200. The small valuation for the house is unexplainable. The \$1,000 building assessment may refer to the construction of a barn or similar agricultural building of some size, particularly since Hall was taxed for 12 horses, necessitating a sizable barn.<sup>15</sup> It also could merely refer to a re-evaluation of the buildings following Edward Hall's acquisition of the estate. The 1830 census records Edward Hall living near Bloomfield in Loudoun County with six children and nine slaves. Three of the children would have been Louisa's children by her first marriage; the other three would have been Louisa's children with Edward Hall, Eliza French (b. 1822); James Dulany (b. 1823); and Sarah Martha (b. 1826).

A document from 1831 records Edward Hall borrowing \$3,000, saying he is indebted for that amount to John P. Dulany, and will secure this loan with his property described as "land on which the said Edward Hall resides."<sup>16</sup> Curiously, there is no mention of his wife, Louisa Dulany DeButts Hall, suggesting that perhaps there is a missing deed between John Peyton Dulany and Edward Hall that cannot be located in the Loudoun records. The acreage Hall is borrowing against is more than 600 acres, similar to the acreage that John Armistead Carter would purchase from Hall ten years later and undoubtedly included the 250 acres of the Crednal property. In both conveyances, Edward Hall's residency on the Crednal property was mentioned in describing the property.

Expenses associated with the support of Richardetta DeButts, daughter of Louisa and Richard, reveal a fairly high level of life style, at least for her. John P. Dulany was her guardian, and the account returns for 1833-1834 for his guardianship were recorded in the Alexandria records. These reveal that she was supported in large part by funds from the DeButts family in both England and Ireland. The expenses recorded include music lessons, payments to a milliner, and travel from Leesburg to Washington and Alexandria.<sup>17</sup> This would also suggest that a piano was part of the household furnishings at Crednal.

At the age of 18, Richardetta DeButts married John Armistead Carter on February 11, 1834, at Clermont, Shelburne Parish, Loudoun County.<sup>18</sup> According to the 1840 census, they lived near Leeds in Fauquier County until at least 1840 when the census records list John Armistead Carter with his wife, two small children, and at least 28 slaves.<sup>19</sup> In 1836, Edward Hall continues to be charged with 250 acres that is Crednal with \$2,000 for buildings improvements along with several other parcels. The notation for that year indicated that "additional buildings assessed," suggesting improvements to the dwelling or construction of other farm buildings. The confirmation that this land was held in the

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right of his wife is found in the tax book notation in 1837 that described the property as a "life estate..." but again no such reference appears in the earlier transaction when Hall borrowed money against the property. The 1840 Census records Edward Hall in the township of "Jonah Hood," in Loudoun County with 11 whites in his household and 21 slaves.<sup>20</sup>

One other document that may have some relevance to the Crednal estate is a deed dated September 17, 1838, between Thomas A. H. Evans and his wife Mary and Edward Hall, for 250 acres for a selling price of \$3,250, formerly land of Julia Claggett, mother of Mary Evans.<sup>21</sup> The interesting association is that there is an African-American burial ground on the Crednal property where there are primarily unmarked grave sites, but the one marked stone is for a Julia Evans, a mulatto woman who died in 1896.<sup>22</sup> Since often freedmen took the names of their former owners, this would suggest a possible relationship to one of the Crednal estate's owners from the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The census records several members of an Evans family living in the Willisville area, including several freedmen and women whose ages coincided with John Armistead Carter's slaves in 1850 and 1860. A George Evans is listed in the 1890 Land Tax Books for Loudoun, living in the Willisville area and owning a 3-1/2-acre lot with a dwelling valued at \$200.<sup>23</sup>

The critical legal documentation for the Crednal property dates from 1841 when Edward Hall and Louisa, his wife, sold the property to John Armistead Carter, husband of Richardetta DeButts, who was step-daughter to Hall. The substantial selling price of \$27,010 suggests that by this time the estate was a sizable one. The property is described as "...a certain parcel of land situate and being in the county of Loudoun on which the said Edward Hall lately resided...containing 638.2 acres..." A plat in the possession of John Armistead Carter is cited but not attached to the deed.<sup>24</sup> After this date, Edward Hall is referred to in the land books as "of Fauquier..." although he continued to own several parcels in Loudoun, suggesting that he and Louisa had moved from the county. According to most records, Louisa Dulany DeButts Hall died in 1845 at the age of 60. The close ties of the Hall family to Crednal are also confirmed by Edward Hall dying there in 1859<sup>25</sup> and the presence of his son, Henry A. Hall, in the household of John Armistead Carter in the 1850 Census.<sup>26</sup>

Richardetta DeButts Carter died at age 31 in 1847 and is buried at Crednal.<sup>27</sup> It is very likely that the name "Crednal" was given to this estate by John Armistead Carter, the son of Landon Carter II of Sabine Hall, Richmond County by his second wife, Mary Burwell Armistead. According to the chronicler of the Carters of Crednal, Richard J. Lundgren, Crednal may have been a derivation of *Credenhill*, a small village and also a parish name in the County of Herefordshire in England, the ancestral home in England of Betty Landon Carter, second wife of Robert King Carter of Corotoman, Lancaster County.<sup>28</sup> Given the location and prominence of Dulany properties in Loudoun County, it is somewhat surprising that the estate does not appear to have been named earlier as were other properties associated with the Dulanys and the De Butts in Loudoun, Fairfax County, and Prince Georges County, Maryland.

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John Armistead Carter was born November 15, 1808, "presumably at his father's ancestral seat, Sabine Hall." He was educated at Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, and later was enrolled at Thomas Jefferson's new university in Charlottesville, from which he was expelled in 1826 for not complying with the University's rules. He went on to study law in Winchester in the law school operated by noted jurist, Henry St. George Tucker between 1827 and 1829, and then settled first in Fauquier and then in Loudoun County where he practiced law in Leesburg.<sup>29</sup> It is highly likely that his education in Massachusetts, at the University of Virginia, and with Judge Tucker, were influential in his thinking about the nature of the Union and the serious legal questions associated with secession and help explain his serious reservations about Virginia leaving the Union that the Commonwealth had been such a leader in creating in 1788.

John Armistead Carter, whose wife had died at a young age and who had only one surviving child, Richard Welby, born in 1837, went on to be a successful farmer and prominent political leader in Loudoun County. Two of his children, Edgar Marshall and Mary Winn, died at a very young age and both are buried in the Carter cemetery at Crednal. Charming inscriptions for the two small children survive.<sup>30</sup> John Armistead Carter never remarried and lived at Crednal until his death nearly 50 years after his wife, Richardetta's, death in 1847.

John Armistead Carter was deeply involved in the political life of Loudoun County and, at a most critical time, the political life of the Commonwealth. He served in the Virginia General Assembly for two terms prior to the Civil War and one term in the Virginia Senate. He was also a delegate to Virginia's 1850-51 Convention where he "spoke forcefully...in favor of basing legislative representation solely on the white male population and of universal white manhood suffrage." He also supported a compromise plan that ceded the "western (Virginia) counties a majority of seats in the House of Delegates." Both of these stands would have been unexpected for a planter with such strong roots in the conservative Tidewater region of Virginia. His more liberal positions might be attributed to his early education in Massachusetts and the tutelage of Judge Tucker.<sup>31</sup>

John Armistead Carter was a wealthy man, with his real property valued at \$32,000 in 1850 and \$37,000 in 1860. A measure of his wealth is that his personal property was valued in 1860 as \$26,585, an astonishingly high value. The Land Tax books for 1856 show buildings on his estate valued at \$1,250; in 1857, the building improvements increase to \$3,000 on the central portion of his holdings, along with \$2,400 on several ancillary parcels.<sup>32</sup> From a tax assessor's perspective these improvement values are quite high. One curious item in the 1860 census is that in that year an Elizabeth Simpson, age 62, along with her daughter Virginia, age 23, both white and owning real estate valued at \$5,000, are listed as part of John Armistead Carter's household. Elizabeth's husband, French Simpson died between 1840 and 1850. It is likely that the two women, the widow and her daughter, lived in a separate overseer's or tenant house on the property.<sup>33</sup> Possibly since Carter's wife was deceased, Elizabeth

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Simpson kept house for him. There is no ready explanation.

In 1861 John Armistead Carter, along with another Loudoun political leader John Janney, who would be elected President of the Secession Convention, were elected to represent Loudoun County. Carter's win was a slim one, indicative of the division on thinking about dividing the Union in Loudoun. He repeatedly sought compromise to assure that the Union would not be split. Writing in 1976, Charles P. Poland, Jr. describes the conflicted position in which John Armistead Carter found himself in 1860. He said:

Loudoun's support for the Union was carried into the special state convention that assembled in Richmond on February 13, 1861, to consider the fate of the Old Dominion. Yet of the seven candidates who sought to represent Loudoun in that convention, all denounced the use of force to prevent secession. The two elected, John Janney and John A. Carter, not only were the most prominent county politicians, but also were strong supporters of the Union who worked for amelioration of the discord within the nation. Carter was a senator in the state legislature at the time of the secession crisis. While campaigning for the special state convention to deal with the status of Virginia, he stated, "I do not believe that a state has the Constitutional right to secede."<sup>34</sup>

Carter was in the minority that voted against secession, despite being a large slave holder himself. Moreover, there was historically Unionist sentiment in Loudoun County where a portion of the population had Quaker roots. Even in a subsequent vote, Carter continued to vote against secession. Clearly his legal education led him to question the legality of secession. Slave schedules show Carter as the owner of 13 slaves in 1850 and 26 slaves in 1860.<sup>35</sup> His only speech during the tumultuous convention clarified his difficult position, as he stated:

I have not had any instructions from my constituents, nor have I had any special communication from them as to what I ought to do here. I do not wish it to be understood that the vote I mean to give today is given by them. I wish it to be understood, that I take the whole responsibility myself. Whether they would concur in it if they were here or not, I do not know; but the vote I shall give I fully approve with my head and heart.<sup>36</sup>

Meanwhile John Armistead's son, Richard Welby, living at Crednal as well, was educated in Alexandria and Virginia Military Institute. According to Richard Lundgren, Carter family genealogist, he "early on demonstrated an acute interest and ability in raising horses and cattle. In 1853 he was one of the founders in the Upperville Colt and Horse Show." A publication from the early years of that institution's shows declared that Richard Welby won "the bulk of the prizes."<sup>37</sup> Public records and tax returns since the 18<sup>th</sup> century suggest that there were always a large number of horses on the Crednal property, clearly necessitating barns or stables to house them. No such buildings from the 19<sup>th</sup> century

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survive at Crednal today. Most likely the buildings were destroyed during the barn-burning campaign in 1864.

Richard Welby Carter went on to distinguish himself in the Civil War. Even before actual hostilities began, Welby Carter raised a company that traveled to Harper's Ferry in the wake of the John Brown raid. He fought in the Battle of Manassas but fortunately escaped any serious wounds or injury. He ultimately attained the rank of Colonel and was captured at least twice, the second time spending time imprisoned near Hilton Head, South Carolina.<sup>38</sup> Following the close of the war, he returned to Loudoun where he lived at Crednal the rest of his life. In 1867, he married Sophie DeButts Carter, a distant cousin, and they had eight children.

There is little doubt that Crednal, along with the Dulany homestead at Welbourne, suffered greatly during the Civil War. Both properties were near the travel routes of both Union and Confederate forces as they moved through Loudoun. A map prepared in 1862 depicts "J. A. Carter" and "Dulany" on either side of the road north of Goose Creek.<sup>39</sup> Crednal lay at the heart of the Unison Battlefield and would have been in the path of troop maneuvers in both that battle and the Battle at Upperville in 1863. One fascinating anecdote recalled that J. E. B. Stuart and his staff "camped on the (Crednal) plantation November 1, 1862 and feasted, according to Major Heros Von Borcke on a "gigantic saddle of Virginia mutton." Heros von Borcke was a cavalry officer who served on Stuart's staff and was among his closest confidants. Following his return to his native Prussia, he published his memoirs of his service to the Confederacy and obviously fondly recalled this sumptuous meal he and Stuart and their colleagues enjoyed at Crednal.<sup>40</sup>

John Singleton Mosby and his raiders were active in the area, and skirmishes occurred as the Union forces tried to limit his activity and access to agricultural goods from the rich Loudoun farmland. According to the WPA file on the area, Mosby was a frequent visitor to Crednal and later presented his portrait to Mrs. Sophie Carter. Records seem to indicate that the greatest physical damage to Crednal probably took place in the fall of 1864 when Major General Wesley Merritt was ordered by General Philip Sheridan to "destroy all forage and subsistence...burn all barns and mills...and drive off all (live) stock..." in the agriculturally rich Loudoun Valley,<sup>41</sup> in order not only to get Mosby, but also to deprive the southern forces of the products of the area. This action was seen as paralleling the same sort of destruction wreaked on the Shenandoah Valley. Sheridan's burning order was supposed to be limited to agricultural buildings, possibly explaining why the Crednal residence escaped damage.<sup>42</sup> Although there are no tax records for the period 1862-1864, the 1865 records note the diminution of buildings values at Crednal from the total of \$5,400 in 1857 to \$2,330 in 1865. The notation in the comments column of the tax records says "off for buildings," confirming the damage to the real property of John Armistead Carter.

The first time the name *Crednal* appears in a primary document is in a Tayloe family diary of a trip

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from the Northern Neck to Upperville in 1866. The countryside is described as “fertile & beautiful” having escaped some of the drought conditions farther to the south. The entry for October 1, (Monday) 1866, states: “went on Friday to [Credlin] the residence of old friend Armistead Carter...before turning into a [public] road, across which is Credlin [sic] a small brick house with a yard. Mr. C(arter) has here 1000 acres of rich blue-grass land. The Yankees encamped here.” The diarist goes on to describe the damage to property in the area. “They burnt fences & destroyed herds of fine stock...here Gen’ Fitzhugh Lee fought to delay them, the Yankee cavalry, harassing their march for 15 days. Subsequently, the incendiary Sheridan burnt all the barns and stables of this section, & mills... The country is less broken here than south of turnpike...Spent a very \*\* time at [Credlin].” He mentions that “Stone walls, almost exclusively inclose[sic] the fields.”<sup>43</sup> It is curious that the diarist describes Crednal as a “small brick house,” but perhaps it appeared that way to someone who was accustomed to large Tidewater manor houses. It also confirms that likely John Armistead Carter, who lived alone, or intermittently with his son, did not require a large residence and that the sizable additions to building improvements to the estate in the 1850s referred rather to farm buildings such as stables and barns.

By 1870, the agricultural census for the county records that John Armistead Carter had 332 improved acres, 110 unimproved, 12 horses, and the primary crops being corn and wheat.<sup>44</sup> However, the farming operation must have been doing quite well because by 1871, it appears that the building improvement values has risen by \$1,670 to \$2,500, likely reflecting the construction of the frame extension to the Crednal residence. Perhaps the added space was to accommodate Richard Welby Carter’s growing family. The building improvements were valued at \$2,700 by 1880, and in that year John Armistead Carter was still listed as the head of the household. Richard Welby’s and Sophie’s children in the household ranged in age from 9 months to 13 years. Only one servant, a 61-year-old white woman, Sarah Jackson, completed the household.

The 1890 Land books for Loudoun indicate that the owners of Crednal were John Armistead Carter and Richard Welby Carter, trustees for Sophie D. Carter and their children. The now 330-acre parcel is described as “adjacent to Welbourne,” with \$1,200 improvements, a decline in taxable value from the \$2,500 in the early 1870s. Even though Richard Welby Carter died in 1889, he is still listed as trustee for Sophie and their children as late of 1895. The taxed value of the buildings at Crednal had decreased to \$1,000 by that year.

Richard Welby Carter pre-deceased his father, John Armistead, dying in 1889. He is buried in the family cemetery at Crednal. John Armistead Carter died January 12, 1895, according to the (Loudoun) Mirror at the age of 88. His home Crednal is described as “near Unison.” The obituary extols Carter, saying that “few names were more familiar to the people of Loudoun that that of John Armistead Carter.” Even after the war, Carter had represented his beloved Loudoun, serving in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1874-1877.



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Welby Carter's widow, Sophie continued to live at Crednal and manage the farmstead until her death in 1928. Although the farm continued to operate as an agricultural site, it appears from several transactions that there likely were some financial limitations. As early as 1876, John Armistead Carter sold off some of his Crednal property to Henry G. Dulany.<sup>45</sup> It appears that he was acting as trustee for some of Sophie's and Welby's children. In 1910, several of her children were still residing at Crednal, along with several servants and the servants' children. Also listed in the household for that year is Fannie C. Marshall, Sophie's daughter, by then widowed. She continued to reside at Crednal until her death in 1945, operating the farm following her mother's death in 1928. A George Perry, a black servant, is described as a gardener. Sophie continues to be listed as head of household in 1920, age 78 with daughter Fannie Marshall living with her and two servants, George and Frances Perry.<sup>46</sup> She, along with many of her children and grandchildren, are buried in the family cemetery at Crednal. By 1930, Fannie Carter Marshall was the sole resident of Crednal and probably was responsible for the management of the farm. The genealogy of the Carter family records many memories of visits by descendants of Sophie and Richard Welby Carter to Crednal in the 1930s and 40s. A photograph of Crednal taken in 1938 is included in the collections of the Library of Virginia showing its appearance from ca. 1870 until World War II, as the records do not reflect any changes to the dwelling during that time period.<sup>47</sup>

Fannie Carter Marshall, who had been born in 1871 at Crednal, died in 1945 and is buried in the Carter family cemetery there.<sup>48</sup> Crednal apparently stood vacant until 1956 when it was acquired by George A. Horkan, Jr. and his wife Evelyn,<sup>49</sup> in the settlement of the estate by Special Commissioner, W. C. Copeland. It was purchased by J. S. Buck and his wife Wanda in 1957 and finally in 1962 acquired by Nancy Harrison O'Connor. Interim owners of part of the property include Paul R. and Eva. P. Fort and Halley G. and Madeleine C. Maddox. General and Mrs. Maddox restored the house from a deteriorated condition and were the first residents following the Carters. The O'Connors were owners until 1975, when it was purchased by Anna E. H. and C. Stanley Dees who have lovingly enlarged and restored the Crednal homestead.<sup>50</sup>

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:**

The main house at Crednal is one of the most architecturally distinctive dwellings in Loudoun County because of its highly unusual floor plan that was a direct consequence of the manner in which it was constructed. By choosing to incorporate an existing, square stone unit into the bottom rear quadrant of the construction of a rectangular brick dwelling, the builders modified the floor plan from the typical center-passage-with-stair plan. Instead, a more unusual lateral stair and adjoining lateral passage at a lower level than the center passage and parlor were employed to compensate for the existing structure's inclusion.

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The most common method to enlarge dwellings during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries was in a linear progression. This is particularly true in Loudoun County where numerous examples of telescope-form houses are found throughout the county especially in the Goose Creek Rural Historic District (NR, 1982) located north of Crednal. Constructing a house where the older section becomes a rear ell is another familiar technique for expanding an existing building. Although the original stone structure is not visible on the façade of Crednal, it is a startling visual element of the rear elevation. The integration of an existing one-room stone component into a traditional Federal-style brick I-house is highly atypical and would have created additional work for the builder beyond the quirky floor plan. Although no explanation has been found as to why this technique of expansion to the house was employed, it makes Crednal rank as one of the most unusual early-19<sup>th</sup>-century dwellings in the area.

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

Although formal archaeological investigations have not taken place at Crednal, the property has the potential to yield underground information as related to the locations of former buildings, unmarked graves, material culture related to domestic and agricultural lifeways, and information about the Civil War.

### ENDNOTES:

<sup>1</sup>Eugene M. Scheel. The History of Middleburg and Vicinity. [Warrenton, VA: Piedmont Press, 1987], 6.

<sup>2</sup>Loudoun County Land Tax Book, 1782.

<sup>3</sup>The present owners have evidence that the farms owned by John P. Dulany and Louisa Dulany DeButts Hall are those known as Old Welbourne and Crednal and were conveyed in a deed recorded in 1811 (Loudoun County Deed Book 2P, 159 (1812-1813). According to an article entitled "The Dulany of Maryland in Provincial and Revolutionary Times, " Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine, Volume LVI, No.1 (January, 1923), the Dulany siblings inherited these farms from their mother Elizabeth French, daughter of Daniel French and Penelope Manley who, according to DeButts Family historian, Dan DeButts, had inherited it from her mother, Sara Hawley Harrison. Some sources show that Sarah Harrison had a second marriage to Thomas Lewis, whose brother was James Lewis.

<sup>4</sup> Loudoun County Personal Property Tax Book C (1785).

<sup>5</sup> Loudoun County Personal Property Tax Books (C), 1786-1812.

<sup>6</sup> Loudoun County Deed Book 2P (1812-1813), 259.

<sup>7</sup> Letters from Mary Ann Welby DeButts to her brother in England, 1812-1815. Typewritten transcription in ownership of Anna Dees, current owner of Crednal.

<sup>8</sup> Magazine of Virginia Genealogy, Volume 40, No. 4. 332.

<sup>9</sup> Alexandria Gazette, May 8, 1816.

<sup>10</sup> George Ely Russell. "DeButts Family of Maryland and Virginia." The Genealogist, Volume 12, No. 2, (Fall, 1998), 176-177.

<sup>11</sup> Alexandria (Arlington) County Will Book 2 (1816), 135.

<sup>12</sup> Loudoun County Land Tax Books, 1815-1819.

<sup>13</sup> Alexandria Personal Property Tax Records, 1820, recorded in Michael Miller, Portrait of a Town: Alexandria, District of

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Columbia, 1820-1830, [Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1995], 517.

<sup>14</sup> Loudoun County Land Tax Book B, 1822.

<sup>15</sup> Loudoun County Land Tax Books, 1816-1835; Personal Property Tax Books, 1820-1830.

<sup>16</sup> Loudoun County Deed Book 3X (1831-1832) 454-455.

<sup>17</sup> Alexandria Account Books, 1833-1834.

<sup>18</sup> Virginia Marriages, 1740-1850. An entry in the LF DeButts family bible places the marriage at Crednal. It is possible that Clermont was Louisa's name for Crednal.

<sup>19</sup> U. S. Census for Fauquier County, 1840.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> Loudoun County Deed Book 4Q (1841-1842) 267-268.

<sup>22</sup> Loudoun County Cemetery Database. Julia Evans, buried at Crednal, appears in the 1870 census as a mulatto women born in 1825, along with her husband George Evans, born ca. 1821.

<sup>23</sup> Loudoun County Land Tax Books (Mercer District), 1890 and 1895.

<sup>24</sup> Loudon County Deed Book 4Q, 265-267. (1840).

<sup>25</sup> See [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) for Edward Hall. The "Wallingford Family Tree." There is some question about where Louisa died; once source says she died in Upperville; another says Maryland.

<sup>26</sup> U. S. Census for Loudoun County, 1850.

<sup>27</sup> "Evidence in Support of Title of John Peyton Dulany DeButts, Esq. to An Estate in the County of Lincoln." [A 19<sup>th</sup>-century document in the possession of current Crednal owner, Stanley and Anna Dees. 2010].

<sup>28</sup> Richard J. Lundgren. A Genealogy of the Carters of Crednal. [privately published, 1991]. 9. Also [http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/place/place\\_page](http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/place/place_page).

<sup>29</sup> Sara B. Bearss, editor. Dictionary of Virginia Biography, Volume 3 (Caperton to Daniels). [Richmond; Library of Virginia, 2006], 75.

<sup>30</sup> Lundgren, 11.

<sup>31</sup> Bearss, 76.

<sup>32</sup> Loudoun County Land Tax Books (B), 1856, 1857.

<sup>33</sup> U. S. Census for Loudoun County, 1850 and 1860.

<sup>34</sup> Charles P. Poland, Jr. From Frontier to Suburbia. [Marceline, MO: Walsworth Publishing Company, 1976], 177-178 and quoted in Elizabeth Claire Dees, "The Carters of Crednal: A Study in Backyard History." (1980).

<sup>35</sup> 1850 and 1860, U. S. Slave Schedules for John Armistead Carter, Loudoun County, Virginia.

<sup>36</sup> Proceedings of the Virginia State Convention of 1861, February 13-May 1. George H. Reese, Editor. Volume 4 (April-May, 1861). [Richmond: Virginia State Library, 1965], 119. John Janney was a Quaker.

<sup>37</sup> Lundgren, 13.

<sup>38</sup> Elizabeth Claire Dees. "The Carters of Crednal: a Study in Backyard History." Unpaged. (1980).

<sup>39</sup> "Map of N. Eastern Virginia and Vicinity of Washington." [New York: Compiled in Topographical Engineers Office at division Head Quarters of General Irvin McDowell, Arlington, January 1, 1862. Published and manuscript maps corrected by recent surveys and reconnaissances [sic]; engraved on stone by J. Schedler]. See [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/map\\_item.pl](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/map_item.pl). (Library of Congress).

<sup>40</sup> National Park Service. "The Battle of Unison," 15. WPA Report, Files of the Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Va. Suzanne Levert. The Civil War Society's Encyclopedia of the Civil War. [New York: Gramercy/Random House, Inc. 1997]. An interesting biography of Heros von Borcke appears at [http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Heros\\_von\\_Borcke](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Heros_von_Borcke).

<sup>41</sup> Loudoun County (Va.) Civil War Centennial Commission. Loudoun County and the Civil War, A History and Guide. [Leesburg, 1961]. 13, 45, 55.

<sup>42</sup> Poland, Charles Preston. Loudoun County During the Civil War: A Study of a Border County in a Border State. [Washington: American University, 1962]. 149-155.

<sup>43</sup> Transcription and part of a copy of the original in the possession of present Crednal owners, Anna Dees. (2010).

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<sup>44</sup> U. S. Agricultural Census for Loudoun County, Virginia, 1870.

<sup>45</sup> Loudoun County Deed Book 6H (1876), 407.

<sup>46</sup> U. S. Census for Mercer District, Loudoun County, 1920.

<sup>47</sup> <http://vaimage.lib.va.us/cgi-bin/photo.cgi/VHI/P/16/0077>. February 7, 1938.

<sup>48</sup> Lundgren, 25.

<sup>49</sup> Loudoun County Deed Book 359/305 (1956).

<sup>50</sup> Loudoun County Deed Book 359/305 (1956); Deed Book 369/215 (1957); Deed Book 381/523, 548 (1958); Deed Book 411/500; Deed Book 418/96 (1962); Deed Book 461/481 (1966); Deed Book 631/116, (1975); Deed Book 806/248 (1982).

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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC SOURCES**

**Public Records:**

Alexandria County (Arlington) Account Books, WB 2/134-135 (1816).

Alexandria County (Arlington) Account Books,  
AB 7/63.140, 239-240; 249; AB 8/132, (1833-1836).

Loudoun County Land Tax Books, 1782-1895

Loudoun County Personal Property Tax Books, 1782-1830

Loudoun County Deed Books:

2P (1812-1813)

3X (1831-1832)

4Q, 265-267 (1840)

4U (1843) (no page number)

6H (1876)

6Q (1881)

6U (1884)

9O (1922)

12X (1948)

359 (1956)

369 (1957)

381 (1958)

411 (1962)

418 (1962)

461 (1966)

631 (1975)

806 (1982)

U. S. Census: (non personal): Agricultural Census for Loudoun County, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880.

U. S. Federal Census (Loudoun County): 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930.

U. S. Census, Slaves Schedules, Loudoun County, 1850, 1860.

Virginia Marriages, 1740-1850.

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Washington D.C. Marriages to 1825. [www.ancestry.com –Washington Marriages...].

**Personal Papers in the Possession of Anna and Stanley Dees, current owners of Crednal:**

“Evidence in Support of Title of Title of John Peyton Dulany DeButts, Esq. to an Estate in the county of Lincoln.” (a 19<sup>th</sup>-century handwritten document)

Transcription (typed) of letters from Mary Ann Welby DeButts to her brother in England, 1812-1815.

Transcription (typed) of Tayloe Diary. Travels to Loudoun County following the Civil War (1866).

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## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

### UTM REFERENCES (NAD 83) Zone 18:

A: 256333E 4321521N

B: 256818E 4321269N

C: 256627E 4320765N

D: 256120E 4320929N

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nominated boundaries include the land currently associated with the Crednal property as shown respectively on the Loudoun County Tax Map 71-46 and included in PIN: 642301540; and Parcel 71-47 included in PIN: 621351947.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundaries of the nominated property include the 49.73-acre parcel historically associated with Crednal that was purchased by the current owners on December 15, 1975, and includes the house and outbuildings. This is the same parcel recorded in Loudoun County Deed Book 631, page 116. An adjacent parcel to the east, containing 26.214 acres of open farmland, which was also historically part of Crednal, was purchased by the current owners in 1982 (Loudoun County Deed Book 806, page 248) and is also included within the boundaries.

### PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION:

Unless otherwise noted, all photographs are of:

Property: **Crednal**

VDHR File Number: **053-0141**

Location: **Loudoun County, Virginia**

Date of photograph: **June 2010**

Photographer: **Maral S. Kalbian**

Digital Images filed at: **Virginia Department of Historic Resources in Richmond, Virginia**

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View: View looking north down driveway toward main house



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View: South view of main house: 1870 wing to the left (west) and ca. 1840 house that was moved to site in 1993 as a wing to the right (east).

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View: North view of main house: 1870 wing to the right (west) and ca. 1840 house that was moved to site in 1993 as a wing to the left (east).

Photo 4 of 12

View: Detail of north view of original ca. 1785 stone unit.

Photo 5 of 12

View: View from center passage down toward lateral stair and hall and original stone unit.

Photo 6 of 12

View: View from lateral hall looking east up toward center passage and front door.

Photo 7 of 12

View: View of parlor, looking east toward brick wing that was moved to site.

Photo 8 of 12

View: View of stone unit, looking north toward rear wall.

Photo 9 of 12

View: View of basement of 1814 brick section; looking east toward fireplace.

Photo 10 of 12

View: View of second-story east bedroom in 1814 brick section.

Photo 11 of 12

View: View of first-floor 1870 frame wing; looking east toward doorway leading to stone unit.

Photo 12 of 12

View: East view of Carter-family cemetery.