

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Thomas, George Prentice, House

Other names/site number: TR 255

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

2. Location

Street & number: 14 Jefferson Street

City or town: Cadiz State: KY County: Trigg

Not For Publication: ☐ N/A Vicinity: ☐ N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following

level(s) of significance: national X statewide X local
Applicable National Register Criteria: A B X C D

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Craig Potts/SHPO** Date _____
Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office _____
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: Date _____

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

1

1

Noncontributing

1

1

buildings
sites
structures
objects
Total

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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions

Domestic/ Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Early 20th Century, Victorian

Materials:

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: Wood

Exterior: Clapboard Siding

Interior Wall – Wood frame, Drywall

Roof – Asphalt

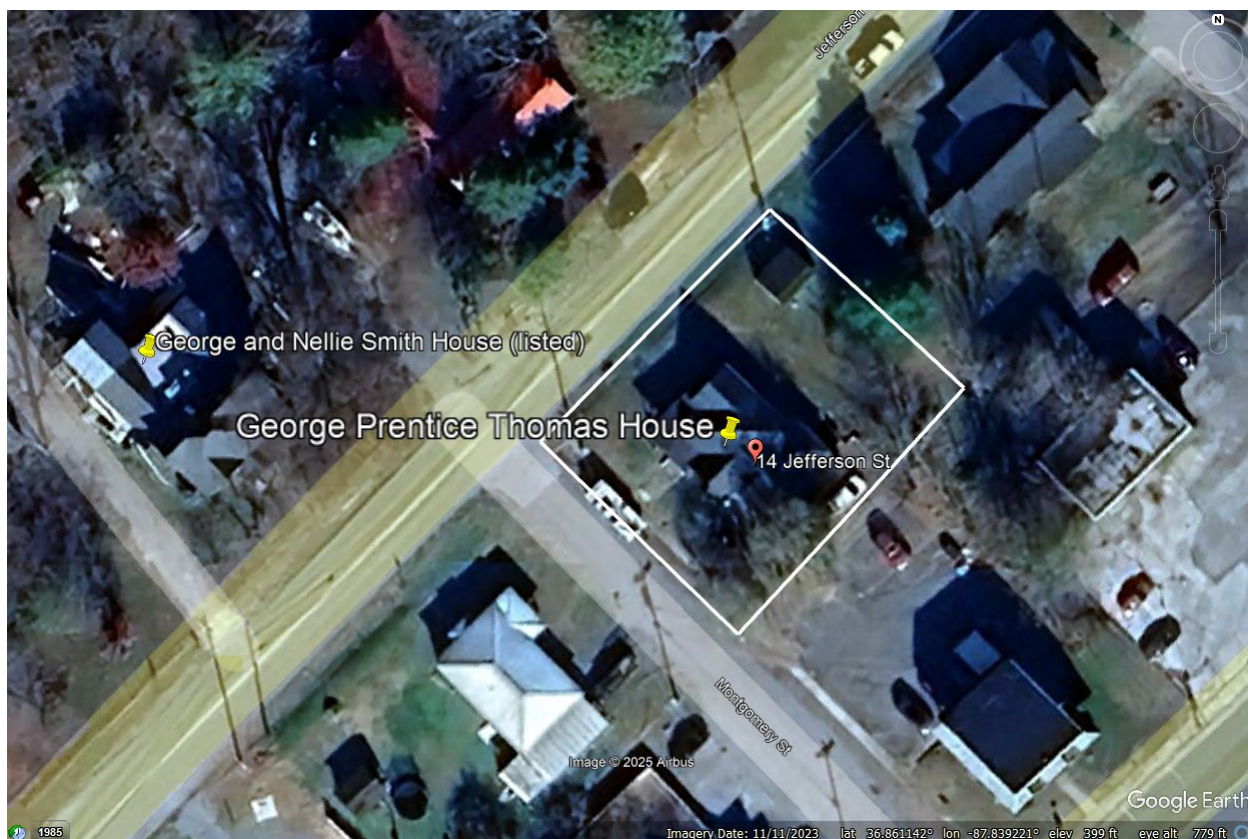
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Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The George Prentice Thomas House (TR 255) is known as the residence of a Kentucky State Senator, and is located at 14 Jefferson, Cadiz, seat of Trigg County, Kentucky. The one-story house was built in 1910 in the Princess Anne style. It is wood frame house with wood lap siding on the exterior. It has a porch around the front and side. This house is situated on the west side of Cadiz, next to the West Cadiz Park once known by locals as “millionaires’ row.” Numerous mansions that were once nearby the house, lining the banks of the Little River, were razed in the 1960s with the formation of Lake Barkley. The area proposed for National Register listing is .20 acres, the entire parcel, and includes one contributing building, i.e., the main house, and one non-contributing building, a contemporary storage shed..



George Prentice Thomas House, Cadiz KY Latitude: 36.861142° Longitude: -87.839221°

Character of Site

The property sits east of the corner of Jefferson Street and Montgomery Streets. The land is relatively flat and near (one block away) but not in a flood zone currently. In 1937, there was great flooding in this area. Several homes (including this home) were reportedly surrounded by water but not flooded due to their foundations rising above the floodwaters. The land was purchased from the Methodist Episcopal South church for G.P. Thomas as his “city house” when his law practice required him to be nearer to the courthouse than he was when at his family farm,

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five miles away from downtown Cadiz. G.P. Thomas reportedly designed the home plans himself. Having been built in 1910, the home was retro-fitted for electricity on/after 1911 when electricity was first brought to Cadiz.

Exterior Description

The house is a one-story wood frame structure built in 1910. The house has an ell plan, with an entry room and porch filling in the joint of the ell. The house's main entry faces toward Jefferson Street, which runs southwest to northeast, making the house's main entrance face northwest. A second entry is found on the southwest side of the building.

Norwest side

The Northwest side of the building features 1 large and 1 smaller gable. In addition, the front porch is currently decked with pine boards and is ell-shaped. The historic windows are double-hung, one-over-one-light, wood-sash windows and covered by non-historic aluminum ramed storm windows. Three wooden porch posts are present on this side, and rise to Doric capitals. The gable on this side has a partial return, and a squarish vent with teardrop-shaped openings. The vent is located near the apex of the gable.



Northwest side of the building (front)

Southwest side

The Southwest side of the building has many features on the northwest side. It contains one gable with partial returns, three porch posts, three one-over-one double-hung windows, an attic vent. It also has a secondary entrance into the home.



Southwest side of the building

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View 2 of the Southwest side of the building, below, shows the large non-historic dormer placed in the attic. This was placed on the roof sometime after a fire. On the far right side of the photo shows the carport which was enclosed at an unknown point in time.



Southwest side of the building – view 2

Southeast side

The Southeast side of the building shows more detail of the carport that has been enclosed by the previous owners. That back roof has three windows that are oriented one-by-one light. Above the carport is a historic window that lights the attic area. As the others, it's a one-over-one double-hung sash with a non-historic aluminum frame storm window covering the opening.



Southeast side of the building

Southwest side

The Southwest side of the building shows the largest number of historic windows of any side. There are three bays of windows: from front to back a single window and two paired windows. These are like the others on the house: one-over-one light double-hung wood sash windows. On the farthest back bay, what was once a carport, and now is an enclosed space which is entered on the southwest side through contemporary french doors.

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Two views of the Southwest side of the building

Interior Description

The original interior included 5 rooms (1 front room, 2 bedrooms, 1 family room, 1 dining room) and kitchen. Previous owners converted one bedroom into a bathroom and the exterior carport was enclosed to create an extra room. The entry of the home opens into a small foyer with poplar floors. Previous owners replaced with plaster walls with drywall. The ceiling throughout the home is 10 foot. The wood trim in the front room is oak.



Entry Room

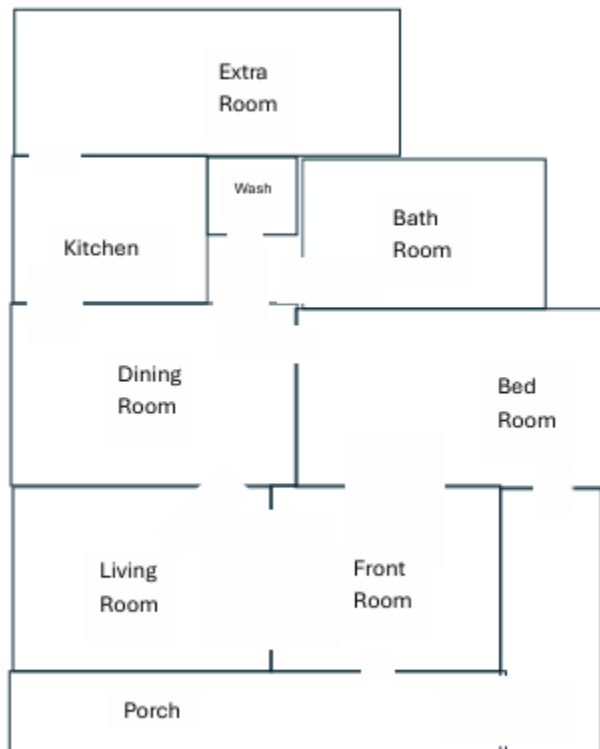
The living room continues with the poplar floors and oak wood trim. The walls are drywall. The fireplace is gas-burning. The mantle is made of oak wood and is believed to be original to the home.



Living Room

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George Prentice Thomas House, Trigg County, Kentucky Floor Plan

The bedroom has a mixture of wood finishes. The bedroom continues with the poplar floors. The interior doors in this space are made of the less expensive pine with a faux finish to mimic oak grain. The wall baseboards are oak. The bedroom also includes one gas-burning (non-working) fireplace. The mantle is made of pine and is not believed to be original to the home. The second exterior door is located in the right corner of the bedroom.



Bedroom

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The dining room includes the poplar floors with the oak trim on the baseboards. Not included in photo is a built-in cupboard next to a gas-burning fireplace. The mantle appears to be made of pine and not original to the home.



Dining Room

The kitchen includes builder's grade cabinets with tile floors which were installed by a previous owners.



Kitchen

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The carport was enclosed by previous owners and connected to the house. Tile flooring was continued from the kitchen. The laundry room with tile flooring is located just off the dining room



Carport, Extra Room



Laundry

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Originally a bedroom, previous owners converted this room into the only bathroom in the house which includes a vintage clawfoot tub.



Bathroom (former Bedroom)

Contemporary Shed, non-contributing building

Previous owners installed a contemporary shed for storage. This building was purchased from a local home improvement store and not original to the G.P. Thomas Home. It has a wood frame, is covered in vinyl siding and asphalt shingles, and a saltbox profile. The main entry faces

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southeast with a large swinging double-door entry and paired six-over-six aluminum track windows. The building's only openings are on the southeast side.



Changes to the Property Since the Period of Significance

After 1943, a fire took place in the attic. A gable window was placed. The original plaster walls in the interior of the home were replaced with drywall. One of the two bedrooms was converted into a bathroom.

In 2022, current owners began rehabbing a small amount of exterior wood that rotted and was replaced with new wood of the same kind and painted.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

Criteria Considerations

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

Architecture

Period of Significance

1910

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Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

Thomas, George Prentice

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

The George Prentice Thomas House (TR 255) meets National Register Criterion C, and is significant that has the distinctive characteristics of a type of construction, Princess Anne/Queen Anne style. It is significant in relation to the other houses of its type in Cadiz, seat of Trigg County, Kentucky. Cadiz saw many houses built in the town with Victorian-era styles, and together, they suggest that Cadiz's economy flowered during the decades from 1880-1920. The Thomas House is a late entry among the town's Queen/Princess Anne catalog. Traditionally, the marker of significance in Queen Anne style is elaboration of design. That is not the basis for the Thomas House's significance, as it is a modest entry in the local instances of the style. Its significance derives from the evidence it gives of a social conservatism within Cadiz that could be seen throughout many Kentucky towns in the first 2 decades of the twentieth century. Nationally, tastes had begun to move away from Victorian eclecticism by 1900, and a revival of classical styles with symmetrical fronts were replacing them. The Thomas House and several others built locally from 1900-1920 show that the familiar Victorian-era massing remained popular in small town Kentucky. The house was built in 1910 for G.P. Thomas (1869-1943) a well-known local lawyer, civic figure, and politician. Thomas expressed a number of views that would be seen today as socially conservative. On a national timeline, his house's style would also be seen as conservative architecturally. Thus, his house stands as an important social statement of conservative values, a way of looking at the world that many Kentucky communities shared.



George Prentice Thomas (date unknown)

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Historic Context: Queen Anne and Princess Anne Architectural Design in Trigg County, Kentucky, 1880-1910

The following historic context is borrowed nearly verbatim from the nomination of the “George and Nellie White Smith House,” National Register nomination, completed by Thomas Lawson. Mr. Lawson is the husband of the author of this nomination.

The Kentucky Heritage Council Survey Database was queried to find comparison properties. Queen Anne and Princess Anne styled houses in Trigg County, with which to make a comparison with the George and Nellie White Smith House. A useful number of properties, all coded by the historic preservation surveyor as Queen Anne style, were found:

QUEEN ANNE STYLE HOUSES IN TRIGG COUNTY			
SITE_ NUMBER	HISTORIC_NAME	LOCATION	STATUS DESCRIPTION
TR 106	DR JOHN G WHITE HOUSE	CERULEAN	UNDETERMINED
TRC 13	THRUSTON-HUMPHRIES-LAYTON HS.	145 MAIN ST AT LIME CADIZ KY	N/R DISTRICT
TRC 14	HOUSE	131 E MAIN CADIZ KY	N/R DISTRICT
TRC 15	DR JOHN FUTRELL HOUSE	125 MAIN ST CADIZ KY	N/R DISTRICT
TRC 17	MCBRIDE/BOYD HOUSE	111 MAIN ST CADIZ KY	N/R DISTRICT
TRC 18	JACKSON/PIERCEY/GRASTY HOUSE	109 MAIN ST CADIZ KY	N/R DISTRICT
TRC 21	GRINTER HOUSE	93 MAIN ST CADIZ KY	N/R DISTRICT
TRC 37	KEATTS HOUSE	110 E MAIN ST CADIZ KY	N/R DISTRICT
TRC 38	WALDROP HOUSE	128 MAIN ST CADIZ KY	N/R DISTRICT
TRC 52	MCBRIDE/TERRELL HOUSE	81 MAIN ST CADIZ KY	N/R DISTRICT
TRC 54	EDWARD STREET HOUSE	89 MAIN ST CADIZ KY	N/R DISTRICT
TRC 56	HOBSON HOUSE	105 MAIN ST CADIZ KY	N/R DISTRICT
TRC 57	JAGOE HOUSE	115 MAIN ST CADIZ KY	N/R DISTRICT
TRC 59	BAPTIST CHURCH PARSONAGE	137 MAIN ST CADIZ KY	N/R DISTRICT
TRC 60	VAN ALEXANDER HOUSE	141 MAIN ST CADIZ KY	N/R DISTRICT

Additional houses with similar architectural styling were found and brought into this analysis by Thomas Lawson, owner of the Smith House. Few of these houses were truly Queen Anne in style. This collection of houses is best considered Victorian era design more than Queen Anne or even Princess Anne style. Still, it is an impressive group for most average-sized Kentucky county seat towns, and more remarkable in light of Cadiz’s small size during the period when these were built. Cadiz’s population in 1880 was 646 people, 890 in 1890, 881 in 1900, and only 1005 in 1910! (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cadiz,_Kentucky)

The early documentation of historic properties in the County was undertaken in 1980 by former Kentucky Heritage Council surveyor Camille Wells, who recorded 20 properties outside of Cadiz. The first properties in Cadiz to be added to the Kentucky Heritage Council’s survey collection were recorded in 1983. That year, a firm operating under the name Pride, Inc. documented Cadiz’s first 51 properties, and another 122 properties in the County outside of

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Cadiz. Dick Holland completed the Cadiz Downtown Historic District (NRIS 88002606) and Cadiz Main Street Residential District (NRIS 89000384), the latter in which many of the comparison properties are found.

Holland accounted for the rise in the Cadiz economy after the Civil War as a product of numerous factors: rich farmland that supported continued growth of grains and tobacco, the benefit of mills on the Little River, iron ore in the western half of the county that was refined in great iron furnaces fueled by the wide availability of timber resources. With these natural resources and improvements, Cadiz had reorganized from the displacements of the Civil War and was ready to flower. Holland writes,

By 1879, Cadiz possessed the craftsmen necessary to construct the substantial Victorian structures desired by the builders along Main Street. The business directory for Cadiz in the 1879 Kentucky State Gazetteer reveals that the town had one plaster[er], three carpenters, two painters, a stonemason, and a brickmason. These craftsmen joined together to build some remarkable houses on Main Street (Cadiz Main Street Residential District, Section 8, page 2).

Interestingly, Cadiz acquired its wealth without that one piece of infrastructure that many late-19th century towns depended upon for their entrée into the national economy: the railroad. Until the close of the nineteenth century, the town's economy interacted with outside areas through two routes. The Little River flowed through town to join the Cumberland River, about nine miles west of Cadiz, where steamboats could go upriver to Nashville or downriver to the Ohio. Or stagecoach and wagon could travel about the same distance east, overland, to the rail depot in Gracey. Cadiz finally got its rail service through the efforts of its chief financier, W.C. White, who organized a local line in 1900 that connected Cadiz with the regional railroad in Gracey.

That small band of Cadiz's craftsmen listed in the gazette created an array of buildings that is remarkable for the town's size. While the Pride, Inc. surveyor attributed Queen Anne styling to buildings that are more accurately termed as eclectic Victorian-era designs, the variety and complexity of these designs are accomplishments none the less. The entries below indicate the estimated date the surveyor gave to these properties when a construction date appears on the survey form. As the building's style name is often inaccurately applied, these dates sometimes also appear to be the guesses of a novice historian. The dates are offered below with a caveat about their certainty, as the survey forms provide not a source for the date estimate. The forms provide a valuable documentation of the property's condition in 1983. Archival film negatives from which the survey photographs were made are available in the Kentucky Heritage Council office. This first documentation of historic sites in Cadiz in 1983 indicates a raising of the interest in historic preservation, as did the follow-up National Register districts in 1988-89. Today, only one property in this collection has been demolished, and the other properties remain quite faithful to their 1983 appearance. From this effort to collect comparative data to evaluate the Smith House's architectural significance, we find a community that appreciated the eclectic designs that were current in the nation from 1880-1910. That community continued to appreciate those buildings in the 1980s and continue to consider them a rich source of cultural value in their third century of existence.

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THRUSTON-HUMPHRIES-LAYTON HS., TRC 13, 1895-1900



UNNAMED HOUSE, TRC 14, 1900-1925



DR JOHN FUTRELL HOUSE, TRC 15, 1880-1900



MCBRIDE/BOYD HOUSE, TRC 17, 1880-1890



JACKSON/PIERCEY/GRASTY HOUSE, TRC 18, 1900-10



GRINTER HOUSE, TRC 21, ca. 1878

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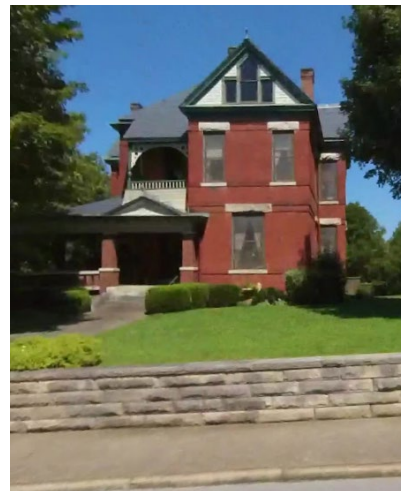
KEATTS HOUSE, TRC 37, 1910-1920 (1983 photo, demolished)



WALDROP HOUSE, TRC 38, 1900-1925



MCBRIDE/TERRELL HOUSE, TRC 52, no form



EDWARD STREET HOUSE, TRC 54, no form



HOBSON HOUSE, TRC 56, no form



JAGOE HOUSE, TRC 57, no form

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BAPTIST CHURCH PARSONAGE, TRC 59, no form



VAN ALEXANDER HOUSE, TRC 60, no form

Un-inventoried Properties in Cadiz that exhibit strong Victorian-era design



23 Marion Street, Cadiz



151 Main Street, Cadiz



**14 Jefferson Street, Cadiz (nominated property)
(Cerulean KY)**



DR JOHN G WHITE HOUSE, TR 106, 1912-1914

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The houses that appeared on Cadiz's townscape in the late-19th century followed the architectural changes that were happening throughout America. Much of American residential design during the early 19th century was an attempt to find an antecedent from classical Rome or Greece and adapt the building to it. Some house designers attempted to copy a particular temple from antiquity; others simply assembled stock elements—columns, pediments, symmetrical facades, pilasters, etc.—applying them to the façade in a new way. Builders during Italian Renaissance had done the same—reaching back centuries for their inspiration—and architects of nineteenth century revival styling repeated their copying, with some 19th century buildings copying Renaissance buildings which themselves had become iconic over time.

Beginning two decades prior to the American Civil War, designers began to experiment with asymmetrical façade arrangements and a departure from revival styling. For the rest of the 19th century, many architects explored the freedom of eclectic stylistic treatments, more on houses than on commercial buildings. Freed from the confinement of the rules of formal design that governed revivalism, house designers could select from a wide range of massing, textures, and materials. In urban areas such as Cadiz, where wealth accumulated and social status ranking motivated greater displays of accomplishment, the most elaborate expression of house design arrived in the Queen Anne styling by the 1880s. By the 1890s, in smaller towns, the so-called Princess Anne style made its debut, an attempt to mimic those exuberant designs found in much larger cities.

Within Cadiz, only a few buildings qualify as Queen/Princess Anne style, but they are good instances of the style. The Grinter House (TRC 21) and the Edward Street House (TRC 54) are the only two in this re-survey of the community to appear in brick. Local builders had abundant wood for construction within Trigg County, and brick does not appear to have been used for much of the community's pre-WWII housing. The Grinter and Street Houses were attempts to call attention to their owners in not only their highly fashionable styling, but also in the distinctiveness of their masonry wall material. They both created an effect that points to housing forms in other urban areas. These two buildings look more related to the opulent residences in the Old Louisville Residential District (NRIS 75000772) than the Cadiz Main Street Residential District.

George Thomas Personal History

George Prentice Thomas (also known as G.P.) was born April 19, 1869 to Allison Willam and Catherine E. (Carloss) Thomas. G.P. grew up working on his family's farm near the Bethel Methodist Church of Cadiz. His education came from family instruction or an occasional traveling teacher. As a young adult, G.P. become interested in law and went to the men's Bethel College in Russellville (Logan County, Kentucky, 56 miles to the east), graduating in 1889. Shortly after finishing college, George married Annie Meacham of Cadiz.

He passed the Kentucky Bar exam in 1892 and for the next thirty years, practiced law in Cadiz and helped in various community projects. In his most well-known case, G.P. defended his cousin, John Thomas, teenage son of his uncle Winfield Thomas. John was charged with killing a cousin on the Bridges side of the family. G.P. successfully got the charges reduced to manslaughter, and John Thomas was sent to Eddyville prison. He escaped to avoid the retribution of surviving Bridges family members, who were planned his lynching.

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G.P. became the county attorney and head of the county's Republican party. In 1896, he was elected representative in Kentucky's General Assembly. Some of the notable items he voted on while in Frankfort included:

- 1) He was against marriage licensing. He said on the Senate floor: marriage is a religious institution and should be separate from government and government should take no part in recognizing or endorsing religious ceremonies.
- 2) George was against public schools. He said education should be left up to each family, it was a private matter for each family to obtain on their own. He believed that compulsory public education would waste the time of those not interested, and those not interested would disrupt the classes of those who were. He believed that kids who didn't want schooling should be promptly put to work or taught a trade.

When World War I broke out, G.P. was against it and noted the country did not need to get involved in other countries' wars or disputes. He quoted George Washington's famous speech and advice to future presidents: Stay out of other countries' affairs and disagreements, refuse to take sides, stay neutral - lest not get into foreign entanglements with them.

In 1916, G.P. also was a candidate for Congress for the First District but lost to Alben Barkley who served as Vice President of the United States from 1949-1953. He was appointed to the first Board of Regents for Murray State Normal School (now Murray State University) in 1924.

 **MURRAY STATE**
UNIVERSITY

First Board of Regents

- Dr. John W. Carr
- Laurine Wells Lovett, Benton
- Thomas Stokes, Murray
- Prentice Thomas, Cadiz
- James Wilson, Mayfield
- Dr. McHenry Rhoads
 - Not pictured
 - State School Superintendent and Chair



 **MURRAY STATE**
UNIVERSITY

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G.P. built this home in Cadiz in 1910. In 1922 when his father Allison died, and much dispute among family to settle the estate, G.P. inherited a portion of the farm near Bethel Methodist Church. To settle hard feelings among family, he let family and African American workers stay and live on the family farm while he worked in Cadiz and spent the summers on the farm to have an active role in overseeing operations.

G.P. was also involved in and supported the Woodsmen Life a religious organizations that helps communities, families, and individuals out of financial trouble. The Woodsmen Life became one of the largest insurance companies in America. George also sold insurance for them.

When World War II broke out, G.P. was vocal about America not getting involved but he did support the war effort and sat on the draft board in Cadiz. Even his own son, George Prentice Junior. Known as "G.P." as well, a teacher at the War's outset, joined the Army and became an airplane mechanic. About this time, G.P. became ill. He died Saturday, May 29, 1943 at age 74. He left everything including the Bethel farm to his son.

History of Nominated Property

G.P. Thomas resided at this residence from 1910 to his death in 1943. The family maintained the property until 1978 when his son, also known as G.P., passed away. The home passed through several owners before it was purchased by Thomas Lawson and Mitzi Thomas-Lawson (both the great grand nephew and great grand niece of G.P. Thomas) in 2021.

Evaluation of the Significance of the Property within the Historic Context "Queen Anne and Princess Anne Architectural Design in Trigg County, Kentucky, 1880-1920"

The G.P Thomas House is architecturally significant within the Cadiz and larger Trigg County architectural context. The house exhibits all of the standard set of features so that it can be identified with the Queen Anne and Princess Anne style.

When Thomas' house was built in 1910, he chose a house whose style resembled that of other owners in Cadiz made at the time. They opted for the familiar expressions that had begun to define Cadiz's residential landscape starting in the 1880s. By 1910, the style of Thomas' house no longer qualified as being "in style," i.e., fashionable; it had become traditional. Architecture in the United States in the early decades of the 20th century had begun to return to classical styles as a way to suggest something new and different from Victorian-era eclecticism. The choice by Thomas and others building houses in Cadiz, during the years just before and after World War I, signal a conservatism, at least from the standpoint of national architectural tastes.

Judging architectural style by its novelty in relation to other styles in the local context is not the only way to the significance of design. The design of Thomas' House and others built around this time is significant as an index of the citizens' conservative social views. Thomas' views on public education, marriage, and whether the country should join the first World War are also views that are conservative responses from an elite member of Elkton. Elkton was a small town at the dawn of the 20th century, having 1123 people in 1900, 1228 in 1910, and 1009 in 1920 (1920 Census, Bulletin, Population of Kentucky, p. 14).

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This judgment is not critical of Thomas or Elkton. There is no implication that Elkton's elite should be socially progressive or their architectural tastes should run to styles that were trending. The word "conservative" emphasizes how to maintain, or conserve, one's social system. In Elkton, a town of under well under 1500 people, the seat of Todd County (1910 population: 16,488; 1920 population 15,694) the logistics of operating a city county governments, county school system, commerce, churches, social networks, a farm economy, and many other aspects of lives, has limited mental energy for new ideas, such as what architectural styles are in vogue.

Elkton's great concerns were more traditional than modern in 1910. Only one building in town is known to have electricity in 1909—Damon's Theater, courtesy of a gasoline-fired generator. That small dynamo produced current in a shack behind the cinema, and brought silent films to life in the building on Main Cross (Sanborn Insurance Maps, Elkton, 1909, map 2). In 1909 Elkton also had two competing phone companies—another sign that the modern era was nearby. However, Thomas' House was built a year before electric service began in the community. When Thomas' House was constructed, Elkton resembled its 19th century situation more than it was headed into a new modern era. The houses built, such as Thomas', had designs appropriate to their era and helped support a society that modern life was coming to more gently than it arrived in urban Kentucky.

Evaluation of the Integrity Between the Significance and the Property's Physical Condition

The Thomas House meets National Register eligibility Criterion C, as a "Property [that] embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction." This building is nominated for architectural significance under the first term of Criterion C in Cadiz, and it has the distinctive characteristics of this particular style of Victorian era design (type).

The Thomas House has integrity of **location**. It occupies its original site. That site is significant in that it was on the edge of the community's grouping of houses known as "millionaire's row." Thomas established himself as an elite member of society through his lawyer work and other social activities. By locating his house there, he announced his important status in the community. When the grouping of houses that had that nickname were lost to the flooding of the Little River, a tributary to the impounded waters of nearby Lake Barkley, the integrity of setting was lost. The house's own internal setting has been impacted by the automobile. A carport was once added to the house, and more recently, a garage has been placed on the property.

It has changed so little that it can be said to have integrity of **materials** and **design** almost by assertion. In truth, there is some design change in the house's front porch. It probably had a tongue and groove wood porch floor originally. The current concrete porch floor appears to have been replaced by owners after the initial construction.

Because the house has such high integrity of location, materials, and design, it can be said to have integrity of **feeling**, which is the most important integrity factor to confirm that the building embodies the distinctive characteristics of an important type and period of construction in Cadiz. It thus qualifies for National Register listing.

Thomas, George Prentice, House
Name of Property

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County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

[The history of the University School/Murray Training School | Lifestyles | murrayledger.com](#)

[A Leaf on the Family Tree: George Prentice Thomas -- Attorney, Politician and Public Servant](#)

[The Cadiz Record, 3 Jun 1943, Vol. LXII, Number 21, page 1](#)

Hunt, William C.

1920 Fourteenth Census of the United States (1920) Bulletin.
Population: Kentucky, Number of Inhabitants by Counties and Minor
Civil Divisions. Accessed via the internet on August 31, 2025 at
[https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/1920/bulletins/demographi-
cs/population-ky-number-of-inhabitants.pdf](https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/1920/bulletins/demographi-
cs/population-ky-number-of-inhabitants.pdf)

Sanborn Insurance Maps, Elkton Kentucky, 1909 and 1923.

US Census

1910 "Supplement for Kentucky: Population, Agriculture, Manufactures, Mines and Quarries"
Accessed via internet on August 31, 2025 at
[https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/1910/abstract/supplement-
kentucky.pdf](https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/1910/abstract/supplement-
kentucky.pdf)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): TR 255

Thomas, George Prentice, House
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10. Geographical Data

Acree of Property 0.50 acre

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude **36.861171**, Longitude **-87.839234**

Or

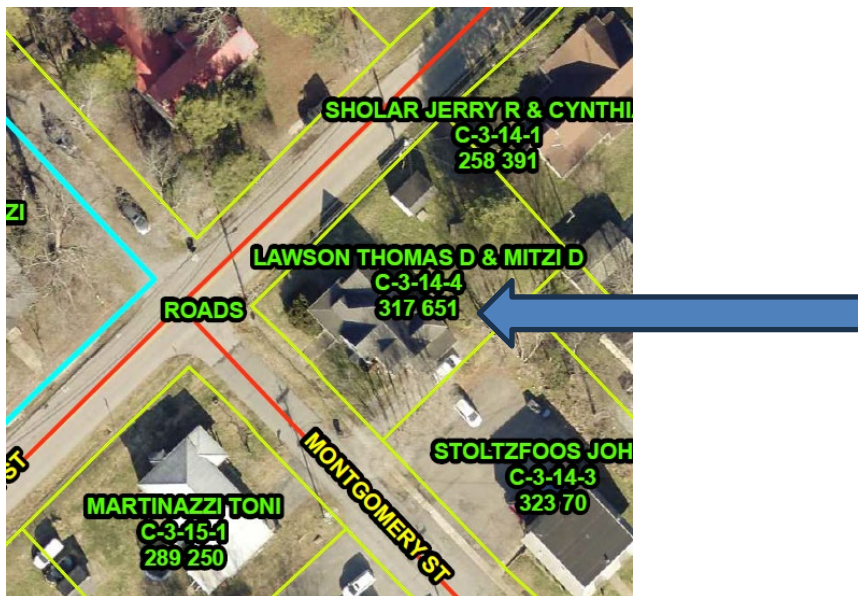
UTM References Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property is at the corner of Montgomery and Jefferson Streets in Cadiz, Kentucky. The lot is a rectangular area south of Jefferson and east of Montgomery. The area proposed for listing is the entire lot, designated by the Trigg County Property Valuation Administrator (PVA) as map C-3-14-4 and account 317 651. The property is shown below:



The property is owned in 2025 by Thomas and Mitzi Lawson

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Boundary Justification

This area is appropriate for the National Register listing because it is the historic resource that has been identified with the property since it was constructed in 1910 for George P. Thomas. That property also has sufficient integrity of setting to make the entire property the appropriate choice.

Property Owner:

name Thomas Lawson and Mitzi Thomas-Lawson
street & number 14 JEFFERSON Telephone 7577149859
city or town CADIZ state KY zip code 42211

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: MITZI THOMAS-LAWSON
organization: _____
street & number: 14 JEFFERSON
city or town: CADIZ state: KY zip code: 42211
e-mail MITZI3TL@YAHOO.COM
telephone: 757-714-9859
date: 05/02/2025

Photographs

Photo Log

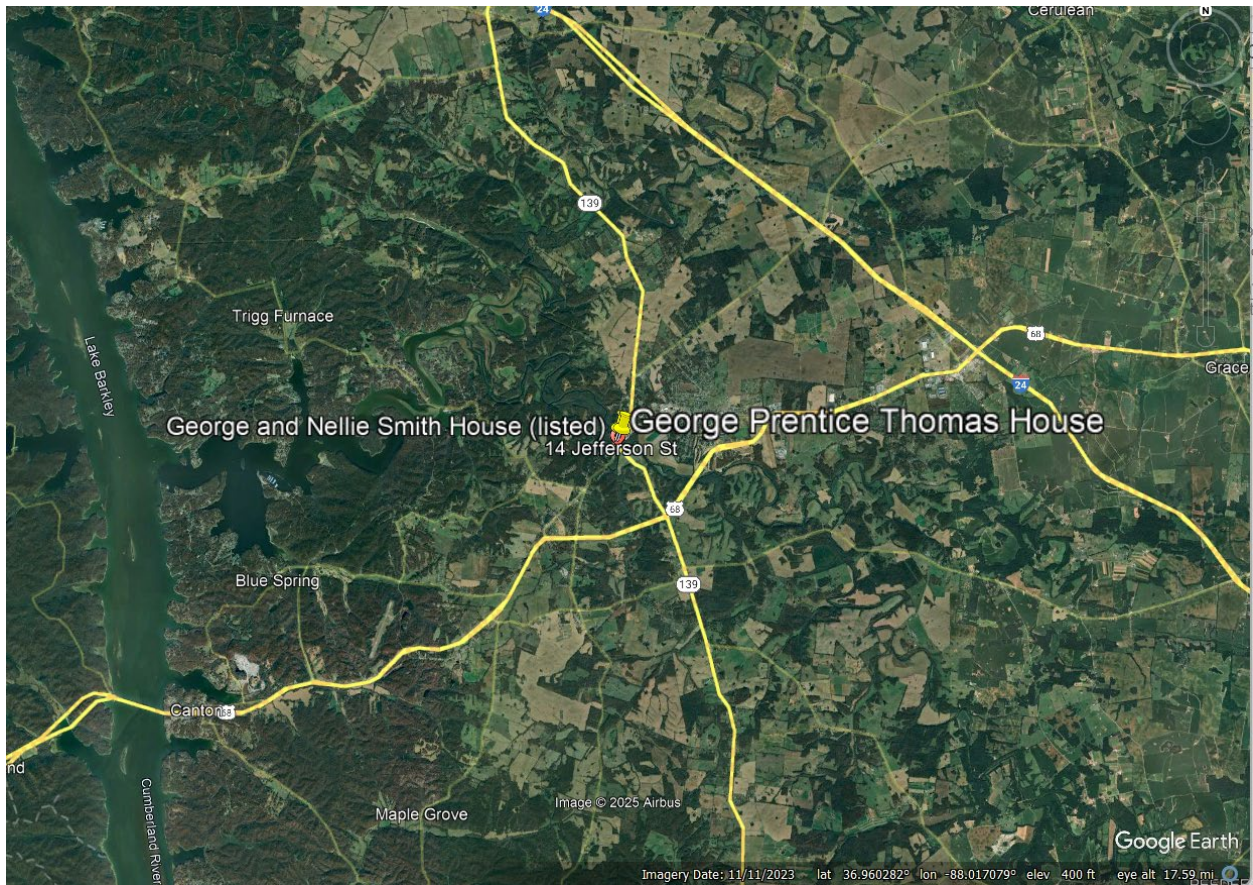
Name of Property: George Prentice Thomas Sr. Home
City or Vicinity: Cadiz
County: Trigg
State: KY
Photographer: Mitzi Thomas-Lawson
Date Photographed: May 2025

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

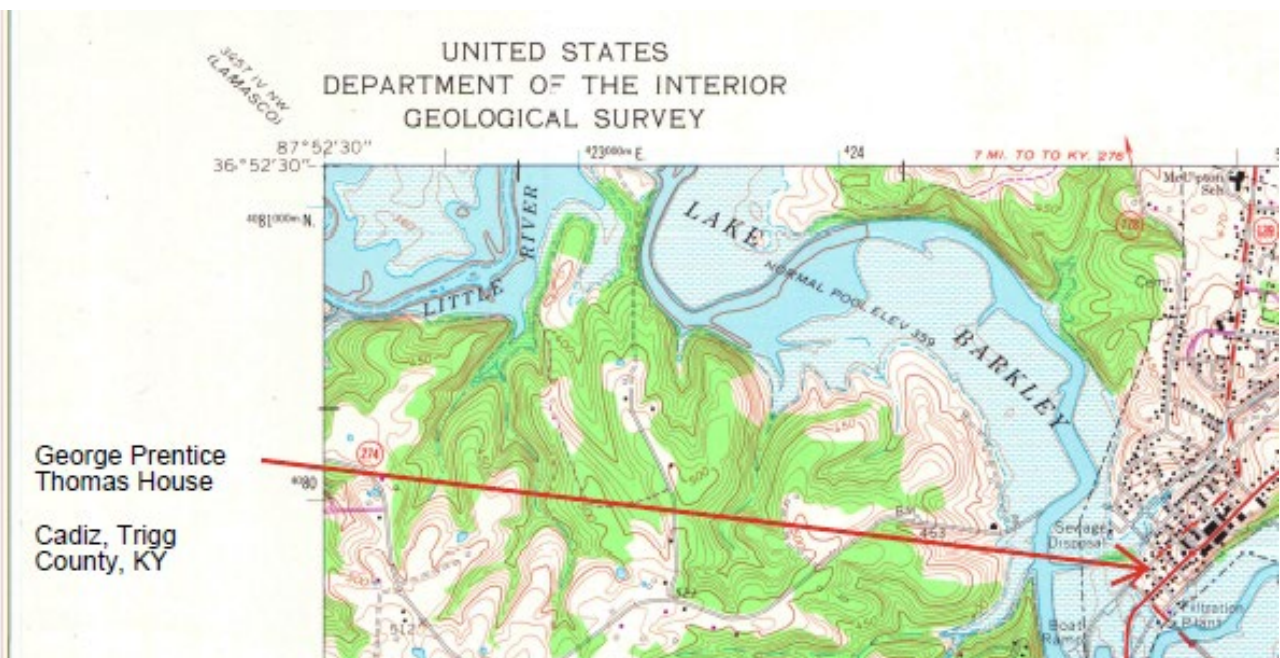
- 1 of 4: Northwest side of home, camera facing southeast
- 2 of 4: Northeast side of home, camera facing southwest
- 3 of 4 Southwest side of home, camera facing northeast
- 4 of 4 Southeast side of home., camera facing northwest

Thomas, George Prentice, House
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Wide area map for listing of George Prentice Thomas House, Trigg County, KY



USGS Cadiz, KY quad map (1967)