

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received DEC 5 1985

date entered MAY 2 1986

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

**1. Name**

historic Kanapaha

and/or common Haile Homestead; Haile Plantation House

**2. Location**

street & number 8500 State Road 24 \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town X vicinity of Gainesville

state Florida code 12 county Alachua code 001

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mrs. J. Graham Haile and Mr. Thomas Haile

street & number 547 N. E. 4th Avenue

city, town Gainesville \_\_\_ vicinity of Florida state 32601

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Alachua County, Clerk of the County Court

street & number 201 E. University Avenue

city, town Gainesville state Florida

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Florida Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes  no

date 1939 \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Bureau of Historic Preservation, DAHRM

city, town Tallahassee state Florida

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

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

The Haile House is a one and one-half story frame house built on fieldstone piers. The main block, a double-pile plan with central hall, has a double-pitched gable roof and a wide front porch. The porch roof is supported by six columns set on piers anterior to the porch deck. Identical one-story pavilions are attached to each end of the North (rear) corners. Two brick chimneys (one now collapsed) pierce the main roof ridge; to the rear, two more chimneys rise from the gable roof of the pavilions. The front facade of the main block has three bays with a centered entry door. The floor plan is symmetrical with two large and two smaller rooms on either side of a wide central hall.

The Haile plantation house is situated in a clearing in an isolated wooded setting about one quarter of a mile from State Road 24, eight miles southwest of Gainesville. The private drive to the house is unpaved and winds through a mixed pine and hardwood forest. The symmetrical rectangular wood frame house faces South and is raised on high (3') fieldstone piers. The main block is one and one-half stories high, one story flanking pavilions are attached to the North (rear) corners of the main block. A one-story porch extends across the South (front) elevation. Cypress weatherboard sheathes the building and the sloping gable roof, originally wood shingled, is now covered with galvanized metal. A wide flight of wood steps leads up to the front porch, which is level with the first floor and edged with a simple wooden balustrade. The porch roof is supported by six square fieldstone piers anterior to the porch deck and its foundation. This porch configuration is common in Camden, South Carolina, and is similar to the design of the Asa May House (NR, 1972) in Capps, Florida, and the Bailey House (NR, 1972) in Gainesville.

The facade of the main block has three bays with a 6/6 double-hung window on either side of the doorway. The main (South) entrance contains paired, panelled wood doors with sidelights and a transom sash. One-quarter of the distance from the East edge of the roof, a brick chimney pierces the ridge. A similar chimney was located one-quarter of the distance from the West roof edge, but it was dismantled by vandals. The roof is double-pitched, with the shallower pitch located over the South and North (rear) porches.

The formal symmetry, simplicity, and excellent proportions of the house, the sophistication of the entryway, and the effect of the slender columns relieving the heaviness of the long, low roof line, indicates that Thomas Evans Haile, although an amateur, was a talented architectural designer.

## 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** 1854-1860 **Builder/Architect** Thomas Evans Haile

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Haile Plantation House is significant architecturally as an outstanding example of a large antebellum country residence which has survived virtually unchanged since 1860. The classically symmetrical house which is still owned by the Haile family, has never been modernized or altered. It is historically significant because it is one of the few remaining homesteads built by Sea Island cotton planters in this part of Florida.

The Thomas Evans Haile family immigrated from Camden, South Carolina, to Alachua County, Florida, about 1854 to establish a Sea Island cotton plantation; the spacious house which they called "Kanapaha," was probably completed by 1860.<sup>1</sup> Its veranda with detached columns, the central doorway with its glazed transom and sidelights, and the classic symmetry of the design echo features which were part of the architectural tradition of antebellum Camden.<sup>2</sup>

Family history indicates that after flooding ruined four successive cotton crops in South Carolina, Thomas Haile packed up his wife and five children and their slaves, traveled by wagon to Charleston, and chartered a boat to take them to Florida.<sup>3</sup> Among the Haile slaves were experienced carpenters and cabinetmakers, and their skill is evidenced in the quality and finish of the Haile plantation house.<sup>3</sup>

Alachua County, Florida was on the threshold of prosperity when the Hailes moved to Kanapaha, eight miles southwest of Gainesville. The production of Sea Island cotton by settlers from Georgia and South Carolina had begun with the removal of the Indians and the opening of the Bellamy in 1826, by 1860 Cedar Key and Fernandina, giving planters ready access to their markets.<sup>4</sup>

Thomas Haile was the fourth son of a prosperous Camden planter, Benjamin Haile, who had amassed a substantial fortune as the result of the discovery of gold on his property.<sup>5</sup> Benjamin Haile's will, dated May 9, 1849, reveals that, in addition to 1,500 acres of land near Camden, Thomas inherited \$4,000 in cash and an unspecified number of slaves from his father's estate. Thomas' wife, Esther Serena Chesnut Haile, also was descended from a prominent and wealthy Camden family. She was related to General James Chesnut, whose wife Mary Boykin Chesnut, wrote Diary From Dixie.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet 3

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre.

Quadrangle name Arredondo

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 17 361000 3274520  
Zone Easting Northing

B                    
Zone Easting Northing

C                  

D                  

E                  

F                  

G                  

H                  

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet 4

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

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Murray Laurie/Diana Primelles

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date November 12, 1985

street & number DAHRM, The Capitol telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state FL

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *George W. Ruff*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 11/26/85

For NPS use only

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

*A. Schlaegel*  
Keeper of the National Register

date 5/2/86

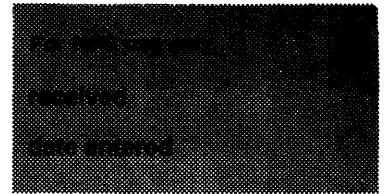
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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One-story pavilions are attached in the rear corners, in contrast to the more common detached flanking structures. Because the main roof extends in a long, low pitch, matching that of the front, the more steeply pitched gable roofs of the pavilions rise above the central roof at each end, giving an unusual but pleasing quality to the rear elevation. Each pavilion has a panelled wood door on the North elevation, approached by wooden steps, and each has a chimney. A single 6/6 window is set into the South and lateral (East and West walls of each wing.

The entrance on the North (rear) elevation of the main block is centrally located and is approached by a set of wood steps leading up to a small covered porch. A single panelled door with transom is flanked by two large 6/6 double-hung windows. Doors leading to small side rooms also open onto this porch on the East and West walls.

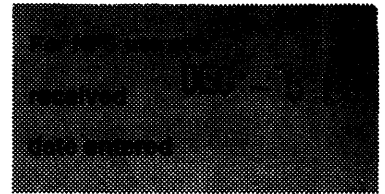
The side elevations of the main block are identical, the first story with two large 6/6 double-hung windows, the top story with one centrally placed 6/6 double-hung window. There are wood louvered blinds still attached to the windows in the top story; blinds for the other windows are stored in the house.

Like the exterior, the interior of the Haile house is symmetrical, pleasing in scale and somewhat formal. On the main floor the plan is a double-pile with central hall, consisting of two rooms of equal size (22 x 24), and two smaller rooms arranged on each of the wide central hall. The stairway to the second floor rises from the rear portion of the hall; it is obviously not a major design feature. The plan reveals no clear function for any of the rooms, which could have been used for variety of purposes. Tradition suggests that the northwest corner room was used for a schoolroom.

The chimneys centered in the inner walls provide fireboxes for all downstairs rooms. The mantles are identical in each room, consisting of simple wooden architraves with mantle shelves, surrounding plastered brick fireplace openings. Closets and storage spaces are built into the wall space between the chimneys. All walls and ceilings are plastered and painted white. In most rooms pencilled grafitti, some of which dates back to the 1860s, can be seen. It was the custom of the Haile family members to write notations about the weather, visitors, recipes, crops, and other memos on the walls, in a seemingly random fashion. The custom continued into the twentieth century when the house was mainly used for entertaining. The architraves around doors and windows are simple in design but well crafted. Most of the original window sash are in place, but much of the original glass has been broken and replaced. The interior doors are panelled and some of the original hardware is intact.

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The two large rooms on the second floor of almost equal size served as children's bedrooms. A storage closet is built into the end of the East room. There is an opening for a stove pipe in the plastered chimney in this room, but no firebox. A large double-hung window is centrally located on the exterior wall of each room. In the West room a hole in the roof, partially covered over, indicates where the other, collapsed chimney once stood.

There are no lighting fixtures because until 1979, when the house was used as the background for a movie, there was no electricity. There is no kitchen in the house and no bathroom, no modern plumbing, although an outside water line was provided recently to bring water to the house in case of fire. The separate kitchen building burned down long ago and the original privy has been replaced by a more recent one. A small cabin North of the house, of unknown age, was said to have been built by a caretaker earlier in this century.<sup>2</sup>

At present, the doors and the windows on the first floor are covered with sheets of plywood to deter vandalism. There is some water intrusion due to the collapsed chimney with resulting minor damage to the interior plaster.

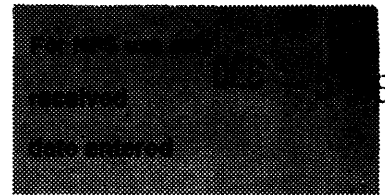
Structural investigation of the house by a team of University of Florida architectural students disclosed that the entire house was built at one time. A set of measured drawings was prepared and is available for inspection at the University's School of Architecture.

Notes:

1. Ethel Wylly Sweet, Camden Homes and Heritage, 1978, pp. 36, 46, 49, 56, 71; see also Julian Stevenson Bolic, A Fairfield Sketchbook, 1980, pp. 284, 300, and Plates CVIII, CXV for examples of similar porch and entry features on houses in and near Camden, South Carolina.
2. Eloise Smith Haile to Murray Laurie, Interview, Gainesville, Florida, 8 February, 1985

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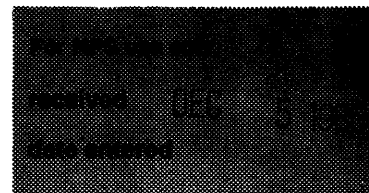
The land the Hailes settled on in Alachua County was originally part of the Arredondo Grant and was purchased from Henry Marquand.<sup>8</sup> Edward Haile (whose wife, Mary, was Serena Haile's sister), Thomas Chusnut (Serena Haile's brother), and Amelia Haile (Edward and Thomas' mother), all purchased tracts of land in the Kanapaha area of Alachua County in the 1850s.<sup>9</sup> The 1860 census indicates that each had a sizable plantation and owned numerous slaves (Thomas Haile, 66; Edward Haile, 101; and Amelia Haile, 175).<sup>10</sup> It is likely, therefore, that the Haile-Chesnut clan, while adapting to the climate and frontier conditions of north central Florida, also duplicated as much as possible the buildings and life style they had left behind in Camden, located in the rich cotton producing up-country of South Carolina.

Thomas and Serena Haile had five children when they moved to Florida; ten more were born at Kanapaha.<sup>11</sup> The plantation house was designed to provide for this increase; it was built to its present size by 1860, with four large rooms and two smaller ones on the first floor and on the second floor there are two even larger rooms used as bedrooms by the children. One downstairs room served as a schoolroom.<sup>12</sup> The kitchen, (since burned to the ground), was a separate building to the rear of the house. Although the 1860 census indicates that the Hailes had built 18 cabins for their slaves, none of these have survived.<sup>13</sup>

During the Civil War the Hailes, like most South Carolinians who had migrated to Florida, were staunch Confederates. Thomas E. Haile served as First Lieutenant with Col. John J. Dickison's Company H, South Florida Cavalry; his oldest son John, who was in his teens, enlisted as a private.<sup>14</sup> Their most memorable contact with the events of the war came in May of 1865, when "Kanapaha" sheltered Sid Winder and Francis Tench Tilghman, two of the men who escorted the Confederate Baggage and Treasure train containing the records and funds of the Confederate government. Tilghman's diary entry for May 23, 1865, the day after they learned of the capture of Jefferson Davis and the end of their hopes for the Confederacy, confides, "Today all has been confusion ... we are all going to seek some point where we can be paroled and go home." Later in the day ... "We were recd & treated very kindly by Mr. Haile indeed & a clean bed,<sup>15</sup> entire undress after so many nights on the ground was elegant indeed."

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After the war the Hailes continued to grow cotton. Many of their former slaves stayed on<sup>16</sup> and it is likely that Thomas Haile expanded his production to meet the demands of a boom in cotton prices.<sup>17</sup> However, in 1868, he was clared bankrupt by the court and most of his property was sold. Perhaps he, like many planters in Alachua County, had gambled on a big crop in 1867 but was ruined by exceptionally heavy spring rains and a plague of caterpillars in September.<sup>19</sup> Fortunately, Edward Haile, who had developed a successful merchantile business in Gainesville, was able to reserve the forty acres upon which his brother's home stood.<sup>20</sup> In 1873 this land and an additional seventy acres were conveyed by deed to Esther Serena Haile; these properties<sup>21</sup> have remained in possession of direct descendents to the present date.

The Haile family continued to live at Kanapaha until around the turn of the century, at which time Evans Haile, the fourteenth child of Thomas and Serena Haile, who then owned the property on which the house stood, moved into Gainesville to practice law.<sup>22</sup> Since that time the house has been largely unoccupied, but has functioned as a family retreat, hunting lodge, and party house. Evans Haile hosted a notable fox hunt in 1905, attended by prominent Floridians and out-of-state guests who arrived at the "magnificent country home of Mr. Haile" by private railroad car.<sup>23</sup> A 1908 article in the Gainesville Sun refers to a ten-day house party chaperoned by the Hailes<sup>24</sup> for a group of young people at the "picturesque Old Haile Homestead."

In 1979 the house was used in the filming of Gal Young Un, a movie based on a short story by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. The house was chosen because it closely fit Miss Rawlings' description of<sup>25</sup> a large old house with "an air of prosperity," set deep in the woods.

NOTES:

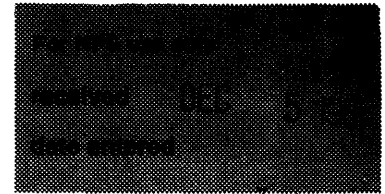
1. Alachua County, Office of Records, Book B, p. 337. This document, dated March 24, 1854, identifies Thomas Haile as a resident of Alachua County, Florida.

2. Ethel Wylly Sweet, Camden Homes and Heritage, 1978, pp. 36, 46, 49, 56.



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3. Scrapbook. Haile family papers and materials collected by Eloise Smith Haile, Gainesville, Florida.
4. F. W. Buchholz, History of Alachua County, Florida, 1929, p. 107; Charles H. Hildreth and Merlin G. Cox, History of Gainesville, Florida, 1854-1979, 1981, p. 11.
5. Thomas J. Kirkland and Robert M. Kennedy, Historic Camden, Part One: Colonial and Revolutionary, 1905, pp. 373-74.
6. Scrapbook. Haile family papers.
7. C. Vann Woodward, Mary Chesnut's Diary, 1981, pp. 207, 255.
8. Alachua County, Office of Records, Book D, p. 247, Book I, p. 145.
9. Kirkland and Kennedy, Historic Camden, p. 122. Also see Alachua County, Office of Records, Book C, pp. 33, 62, Book D, p. 249, Book E, p. 31.
10. U. S. Census Bureau, 8th Census, 1860, Alachua County, Florida. Free Schedule, pp. 73-4, Slave Schedule, pp. 24, 26, 66.
11. 1860 Census, Alachua County, Free Schedule, p. 73. See also Haile family Scrapbook.
12. Personal Communication, Eloise Smith Haile, February 8, 1985.
13. 1860 Census, Alachua County, Slave Schedule, p. 24.
14. Mary Elizabeth Dickison, Dickison and His Men, 1890, p. 256.
15. A. J. Hanna, "The Confederate Baggage and Treasure Train Ends Its Flight in Florida," Florida Historical Quarterly 17 (January, 1939), pp. 174-75.
16. Buchholz, History of Alachua County, p. 133.

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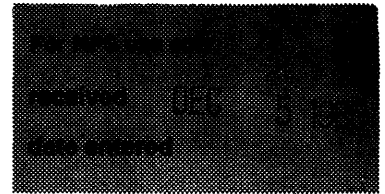
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17. Savage and Haile Cotton Record, Ledger 73, P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, pp. 39-40. Thomas Haile's substantial cotton shipments are recorded for 1866.
18. Alachua County, Office of Records, Book G, pp. 736-37.
19. Hildreth and Cox, History of Gainesville, pp. 55-56.
20. Ibid, p. 53. Also Alachua County, Office of Records, Book G, pp. 736-37, Book J, p. 449.
21. Alachua County, Office of Records, Book I, p. 145, Book 243, p. 192.
22. Jessie Burtz, Burtz Gainesville Directory, 1905, p. 36.
23. "A Distinguished Party," Gainesville Sun, January 15, 1905, p. 3.
24. "Haile House Party," Gainesville Sun, July 7, 1908, p. 3.
25. Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, When the Whipporwill..., 1940, p. 179.

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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Dickison, Mary Elizabeth. Dickison and His Men: Reminiscences of the War in Florida. Louisville, KY: Courier Journal Job Printing Co., 1890.

"A Distinguished Party." Gainesville Sun. 15 January 1905, p. 3.

"Haile House Party." Gainesville Sun. 2 August 1908, p. 3.

Hanna, A. J. "The Confederate Baggage and Treasure Train Ends its Flight in Florida." Florida Historical Quarterly XVII, (No. 3) (January, 1939), 158-190.

Hildreth, Charles H. and Merlin G. Cox. History of Gainesville, Florida, 1854-1979. Gainesville, FL: Alachua County Historical Society, 1981.

Kirkland, Thomas J. and Robert M. Kennedy. Historic Camden, Part One: Colonial and Revolutionary. Columbia, SC: The State Company, 1905. Reprinted, 1968.

Kirkland, Thomas J. and Robert M. Kennedy. Historic Camden, Part Two: Nineteenth Century. Columbia, SC: The State Company, 1926. Reprinted 1965.

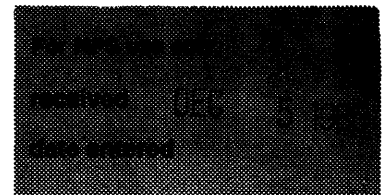
Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan. When the Whipporwill...New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1940.

Sweet, Ethel Wylly. Camden Homes and Heritage. Camden, SC: Kershaw County Historical Society, 1978.

Woodward, C. Vann, ed. Mary Chesnut's Civil War. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1981.

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UNPUBLISHED:

Haile, Eloise Smith to Murray D. Laurie, Interview, Gainesville, FL,  
8 February 1985.

Haile Family Scrapbook, in the possession of Eloise Smith Haile, Gainesville,  
FL.

Savage and Haile Cotton Record. Ledger Book in the collection of the  
P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History, University of Florida,  
Gainesville, FL.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS:

Alachua County, Office of Records, Gainesville, FL. Deed Books B, D,  
E, G, I.

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Verbal Boundary Description

A square plot extending 100 feet on each side and centered on the main residence as described within the nomination.