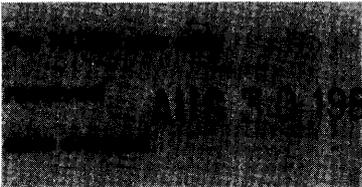


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



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

**1. Name**

historic Josiah Davis House

and/or common same

**2. Location** S of Canoochee on GA 192

street & number Georgia Highway 192, half-way between Twin City & N/A not for publication  
Canoochee

city, town Canoochee vic.  vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Georgia code 013 county Emanuel code 107

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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 checked="" 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"/> n/a 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. Mary Peacock and Miss Jean Peacock

street & number Route 3

city, town Twin City N/A vicinity of state Georgia 30471

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Emanuel County Courthouse

city, town Swainsboro state Georgia

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Historic Structures Field Survey :  
Emanuel County, Georgia has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1978  federal  state  county  local

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

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

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## 7. Description

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

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

The Josiah Davis House is a two-over-two Plantation Plain style house with a central hall, one story front porch, and an ell addition, as well as other added rear rooms. The exterior is weatherboarded and the original front door and some of the six-over-six windows are intact. There are two very thin exterior chimneys, one on either side of the older part of the house. The one story front porch has a metal roof like the rest of the house and is supported by four sets of thin columns with elaborate sawnwork at the top. The porch also has a simple unornamented railing. The windows on the main block have wooden lintels with slightly pedimented tops.

The interior consists of two rooms down and two up in the main block or original house, making the original house only one room deep. A small connecting room with an outside entrance connects the main block to the original detached kitchen that now forms an ell with the main house. It has a central chimney and an outside entrance. The connecting room was originally a "dog run" or open porch that has been enclosed to make a "living porch". The kitchen and dining room are housed in the ell room and share the same chimney.

The house has wide, hand planed boards on the walls, with floors and ceilings of heart pine. Late nineteenth century mantels remain in the original part of the house and are beautifully carved. Crown moulding that was added since 1930 is in the front parlor; the walls and ceiling are not plastered. A stairway with a simple railing leads from the central hall to the second floor. The second floor of the main block has only two bedrooms, with doors that retain their original marbelizing. Otherwise the upstairs rooms have no ornamentation.

The house has retained its original heating system, that of fireplaces. The grounds are generally flat, with a minimum of landscaping primarily consisting of a few shrubs planted near the house. The rest remains farmland. The house sits near the highway on high ground at the center of the property.

There are several surviving outbuildings that include a barn, syrup mill, and at least three tenant houses. These are all one story, wooden buildings with metal roofs. Those nearest the house are separated from it by a fence. Outbuildings known to have once existed include other barns, a smokehouse, a privy and other tenant houses. Extant outbuildings appear to date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The major changes to the house primarily include the enclosure of the rear "dog run" to make a living porch, adding of screens to the windows, and adding new steps at the front entrance.

### Photographs

The Historic Preservation Section has determined that the photographs taken in November, 1980 still represent the character and appearance of the property. No significant changes have been made since that date.

# 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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

**Specific dates**    c. 1869                      **Builder/Architect**    Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Josiah Davis House, built in 1869, is significant in architecture because it is a good example of the Plantation Plain style house, predominant in Georgia during the early nineteenth century and continuing as a building style into the Reconstruction Era of the late 1860's and later. It exemplifies the two-over-two room arrangement of the main block, with a shed front porch, that is found on so many Georgia farm dwellings. The house is significant in local history as the home of Josiah Davis, a local farmer who survived the Civil War and was able to build this house during the height of Reconstruction in 1869. He farmed corn and cotton on 318 acres using share croppers as a labor force. The property is also significant in agriculture as an intact, Reconstruction-era farm that has retained its original size and exemplifies a typical small farm of the era. These areas of significance support property eligibility under National Register criteria A and C.

The Josiah Davis House significance in architecture is achieved on several points. First it is a good example of the transition of architectural styles. The Plantation Plain style had its height in Georgia during the period from 1830-1850 yet this house is an example of the carryover or revival of the style into the Reconstruction Era of 1865-1870 when, according to traditional history, most everyone in the South was too destitute to build anything. The house exemplifies the same characteristics of the style from its antebellum heyday, two rooms up and two down, central hall, shed porch on the front and back (in this case only on the front), with a detached kitchen. Its interior has simple, wide boards on the floors, walls and ceilings with no plaster, yet it has elaborate mantels on the lower floor. It is bare of any Greek Revival or Victorian detailing save for the ornamentation of the front porch and the downstairs fireplace mantels. Secondly, it is significant because it has been little changed from its construction and thus provides a look at an original, virtually untampered example of a house of that era. Even the heating has been barely modernized. Thirdly, as mentioned above, it is important in reflecting the building patterns of the Reconstruction Era, an era only slowly being understood by contemporary historians. It is one of only a few documented Reconstruction Era homes in the Plantation Plain Style, which might indicate either a resurgence of the earlier style after the supposed construction halt during the Civil War years or the continued use of the style even during the War.

The house is significant in local history as the farm house or main house of Josiah Davis (1847-1902) a native of Emanuel County who with his wife Sarah Canady (1849-1927), a childhood neighbor, built this house shortly after their marriage around 1869 and operated a relatively small 318 acre farm that has retained virtually its same acreage since the house was built. Davis was a Civil War veteran who, once the war was over and he returned home, established his farm and never moved from the area again. He raised cotton and corn with the use of sharecroppers, who for the most part were hired freedmen and women, former slaves from nearby plantations. His house was small, being only one room deep, a total of four rooms, with a detached kitchen,

(CONTINUED)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

National Register Information Form by James E. Dorsey and interviews, 1980.

1874 Tax Digest, Emanuel County, Georgia located at the Georgia Archives.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 321 acres

Quadrangle name Canoochee, GA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

**UMT References**

A	1 7	3 8 9 6 1 0	3 6 1 0 9 4 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 7	3 9 1 5 9 0	3 6 1 1 0 9 0
E	1 7	3 9 0 6 5 0	3 6 1 0 2 3 0
G			

B	1 7	3 9 0 0 5 0	3 6 1 1 1 9 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	1 7	3 9 1 5 2 0	3 6 1 0 1 8 0
F	1 7	3 8 9 6 0 0	3 6 1 0 7 4 0
H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property is marked with a heavy black line on the enclosed plat map and is all the owner owns at this location. It corresponds closely to the historic acreage associated with the property.

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr. Historian  
Historic Preservation Section  
 organization Georgia Department of Natural Resources date August 16, 1982  
 street & number 270 Washington Street, S.W. telephone 404/656-2840  
 city or town Atlanta state Georgia

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon  
 Elizabeth A. Lyon  
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date 8/23/82

**For HCRS use only**  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
Robert M. Dwyer date 10/5/82  
 Keeper of the National Register  
 Attest: Patrick W. Andrews date 10/5/82  
 Chief of Registration

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

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

For NPS use only

received

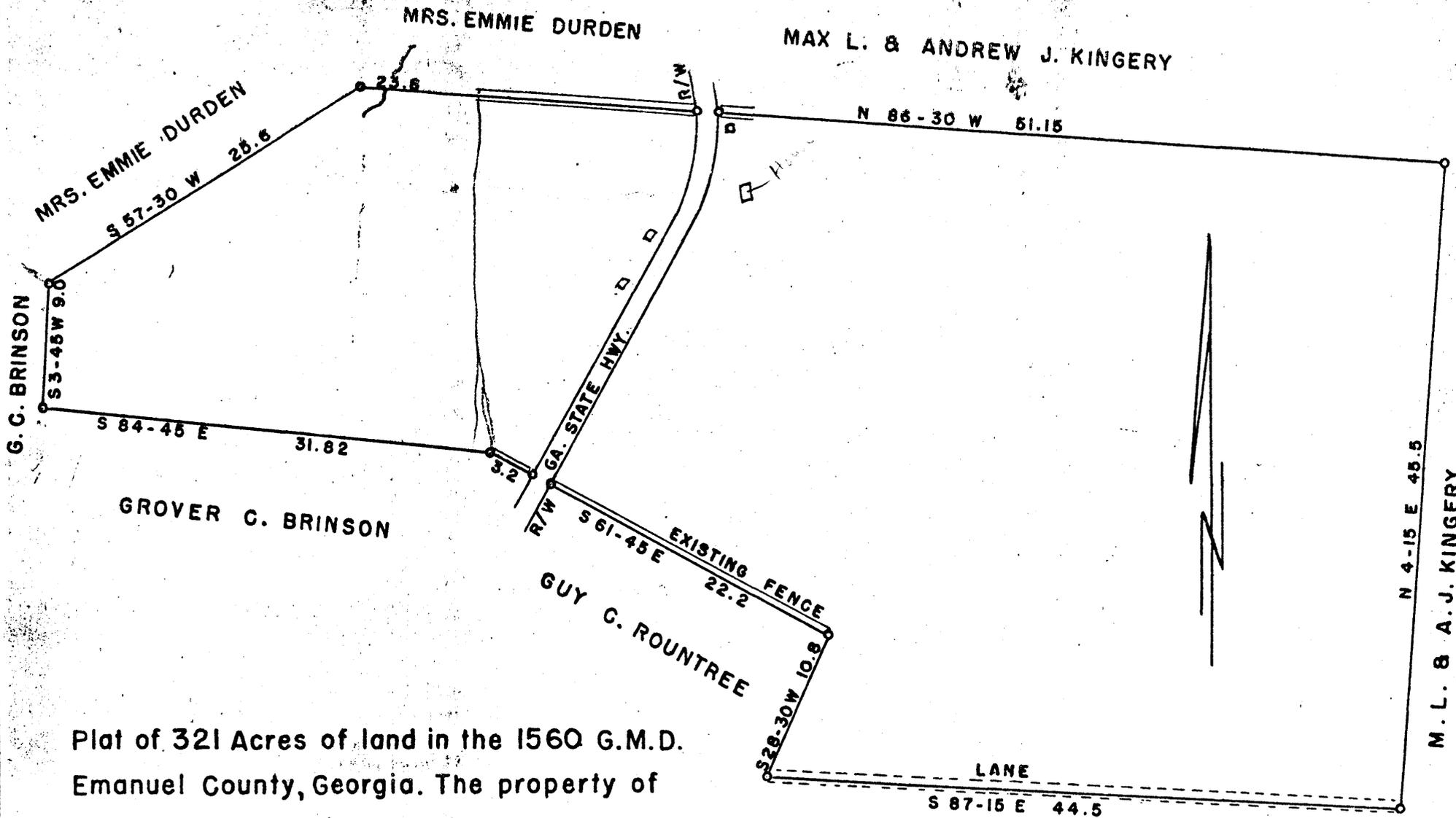
date entered

Continuation sheet    Significance    Item number    8    Page    2

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which would have fit their family of three children well. His obituary referred to him as a "frugal and energetic farmer" and mentioned no civic or fraternal activities. He was buried not far from his farm in the Old Canoochee Cemetery. After Josiah Davis' death, his son Dr. George Davis raised long staple cotton there until the advent of the boll weevil. The house remained in the Davis family until after the widow's death when it was sold to the Peacock family, the present owners.

The Josiah Davis House is significant in agriculture because it retains intact the 318 acres Davis is known to have farmed in 1869. It was here where, after he returned from service for the Confederacy, he began his own farm and raised his own family. He would have been forced by the new economic times to have used sharecroppers, that is workers, primarily former slaves, who would be paid for their services out of the crops that were raised. The main staples here were cotton and corn, as in most nearby farms in Georgia. This farm is significant because it typifies the many that were established during the Reconstruction Era when large plantations were no longer feasible for a beginning farmer and a new social and economic order was emerging. Few of these types of farms have survived with their same acreage, main house, and surroundings free from intrusions.



Plat of 321 Acres of land in the 1560 G.M.D.  
 Emanuel County, Georgia. The property of  
 Mrs. Mary Peacock.

SKETCH MAP/PLAT MAP

*Frank J. Ford*

MR:

JOSIAH DAVIS HOUSE  
 Cahoochee, Emanuel County, Georgia  
 Scale: 1"=10 chains = 660 feet  
 Source: Emanuel County, GA Plat Book 10,  
 p. 586  
 Date: 1951 recorded 1980  
 Key: The nominated property is all that is

DEC. 10, 1951  
 SCALE: 1"=10 CHS.

SURVEYOR  
 GA. REG. 575