

1307

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Nails Creek Historic District  
other names/site number Jewellville

**2. Location**

street & number Georgia State Route 51  
city, town Homer (X) vicinity of  
county Banks code 011  
state Georgia code GA zip code 30547

(N/A) not for publication

**3. 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:**

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	21	6
sites	1	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	22	6

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Resources along the Old Federal Road in Georgia's Banks and Franklin Counties, c.1805-1946.

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination 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 meets the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

*Mark R. Edwards*

Signature of certifying official

*6/07/96*

Date

Mark R. Edwards  
State Historic Preservation Officer,  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

In my opinion, the property ( ) meets ( ) does not meet the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

Entered in the National Register

*Edson H. Beall* *11-7-99*

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:

see continuation sheet

Signature, Keeper of the National Register

Date

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## **6. Function or Use**

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### **Historic Functions:**

DOMESTIC/single dwellings  
RELIGION/religious facility  
COMMERCE/store  
AGRICULTURE/outbuildings  
FUNERARY/cemetery

### **Current Functions:**

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
RELIGION/religions facility  
FUNERARY/cemetery

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## **7. Description**

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### **Architectural Classification:**

LATE VICTORIAN/Romanesque Revival  
LATE VICTORIAN/Gothic Revival  
OTHER/Gable-Ell  
OTHER/Georgian plan

### **Materials:**

**foundation** brick and concrete  
**walls** brick, wood  
**roof** tin  
**other** stone

### **Description of present and historic physical appearance:**

The Nails Creek Historic District is a mostly intact crossroads community. Serving as the focal point of this district is the Nails Creek Baptist Church, which has been active since the earliest period of settlement. Two stores are also located in the district, and both were vital to the prosperity of the community. One of these stores contained a post office, justice of the peace, dentist and doctor's office. The district contains one tenant house as well as the William Wiley House, a fine Gothic Revival-influenced farmhouse. Gently rolling hills with cleared areas surrounded by large forested expanses comprise the district's terrain.

The William Wiley House, built c. 1870, is a three-bay, one-story white clapboard Gothic Revival-influenced house with three front facing gables and one cross gable. The roof is tin. The front door has transom and sidelights, and enters into a wide hall with two rooms and double fireplaces on either side. The walls of these four rooms and the hall are plaster, floors are 6" wide boards, and 14' ceilings are covered with 8" wide painted planks. The windows are long 6/6 and the doors are four panel. Baseboards are 1' high with a slightly projecting spline at top.

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At the end of the hall there is an identical doorway opening onto a porch. The left gable continues back over the porch, extends over the dining room and kitchen, and a breezeway is formed between the two sections. There is an exterior door with sidelights at the end of the breezeway and a small porch beyond that doorway. The kitchen and dining room share back-to-back fireplaces. Each room has 4" wide painted boards on the walls and 2" wide painted tongue and groove boards on the ceilings, which have been lowered slightly. There is a porch along the right side of these rooms which wraps around the back and to the left across the back of the kitchen. The well is on the right rear corner of this porch. There is a small entryway off the porch with winding stone steps to the stone cellar, which was used for food storage and as a storm cellar. The cellar has a 7' ceiling.

The front, back, and side porches all have slender chamfered posts, fan shaped brackets, and scrollwork railings. The front porch has a hip roof. The three front gables have deep raking cornices with wide frieze boards beneath, and fan brackets on the cornice returns.

A bathroom has been added in one of the bedrooms. The house is otherwise unchanged.

There are elm trees in rows in the front yard and fruit trees and shrubs around the yard.

The Wiley property has eight outbuildings, all in very good condition. The associated store is located near the Old Federal Road. It is a clapboard, gable-front ceiled building with two barred windows on either side of the double 4-panel front doors. There is another barred window on the back wall and a batten door. There is also a batten door on the left rear wall. There is one stove flue in the center of the building. There are shelves along both side walls with two long counters in front of them. Ceilings are approximately 12'. An old scale, letter boxes, and mail drop are still in their original locations.

There is an old shop, a chicken house, and a shelter in a line behind the store. All are weathered clapboard. The hired hand's house is a gable-end board and batten building. There is a wall ladder to the loft, a loose rock chimney, and boxed eaves. An aluminum shed has been added to the back and a connecting overhead cover built between this building and the smokehouse. The smokehouse is a gable-front, two-story weathered clapboard building with a batten front door, a loft door and a ladder leading to the second story. An aluminum shed has been added to one side. A bell at the gable summoned the workers to their meals.

The Wiley Tenant House is a white, one-story, three-bay clapboard gable-end house with a rear extension, an asphalt roof, and concrete

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block foundation. There is a field stone chimney on the right end, coated with clay mortar. The top half is missing. The front porch, which is in poor condition, has a tin roof and concrete steps. The front door is batten and the windows are 6/6. A gabled ell extends from the left rear and a 6' deep shed projects from the right rear side. A shed roof screen porch extends back from the rear ell. The eaves are boxed and there is a deep trim board below the gable.

There is a white clapboard smoke house with a batten door behind the house, about 10' x 12' and 14' high which has a gable-front roof extending out about 1-1/2' at the peak and tapering to ground level.

The house sits on a hill, and is located perpendicular to the Old Federal Road. There are two, 4' diameter elms in the yard and the house has wooded areas on two sides. A contributing service station/store building is on the property, situated near the road. This structure is not presently being used.

The Nails Creek Baptist Church is a gable-front, one-story brick Romanesque Revival-styled building with a pyramidal-roofed central square tower. At ground level the tower has simple corbeled arches with impost molding, forming a sheltered entry. On either side of the tower there is a 2/2 frosted glass window topped by a corbeled, semi-circular arch containing four segments of various colored glass. All of the windows in the original part of the building are the same and have marble sills.

Two horizontally paneled doors open into the main body of the church. The sloping wooden floor is carpeted and mahogany pews are ranked in three columns with aisles between them and along the exterior walls. The walls are plaster with dark stained narrow beaded tongue and groove wainscotting. The Baptismal unit is sunk under the choir area, which is recessed and framed by a flattened segmental arch. There is a window behind this area and the old Sunday school rooms are on either side. The ceiling, sloped to follow the roof line about a third of the way, is covered with pressed tin and supported in the center by four heart pine posts. Three tie rods have been installed. The church seats 400-450 people and has had a fairly recent education wing adjoining it at the left rear.

The Nails Creek Store's main portion is a one-story, gable-end, tin roof weathered clapboard building. The main part, 8' long x 28' deep, has deep eaves and wide rakes and has double front batten doors. A gable-front addition with a side shed has been added on the left end. The main building has been partitioned into two sections on the front and one long section along the back of the building. There is a stove flue in the right front section.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

**Applicable National Register Criteria:**

A     B     C     D

**Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):**     N/A

A     B     C     D     E     F     G

**Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):**

AGRICULTURE  
ARCHITECTURE  
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

**Period of Significance:**

c. 1864-1946

**Significant Dates:**

c. 1870  
c. 1883  
c. 1890  
c. 1908

**Significant Person(s):**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

**Architect(s)/Builder(s):**

Local African-American craftsman  
Mr. Thompson - plaster work

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**Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:**

**Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)**

Architecture

The Nails Creek Historic District is significant in architecture for its historic farmhouses, outbuildings, and community buildings. The houses represent the types of houses constructed as rural Georgia farmhouses from c. 1870 into the 1930s. The outbuildings are examples of agricultural and domestic outbuildings built on small farms in north Georgia during the 19th and early-20th centuries. The church and stores are examples of community resources built during this period.

Agriculture

The district is significant in agriculture for its small farm complexes typically found in north Georgia and along this portion of the Old Federal Road. The majority of farms in the area were small subsistence farms, raising crops and livestock to sustain the families who lived there. Crops included corn, oats, wheat, and vegetables. Cotton was grown as a cash crop, but only on a small scale. The Wiley farm was begun by William Wiley (b. 1782), a large land owner and slave owner, c. 1800. Wiley's son William J. (1812-1881) built the Wiley house c. 1870 and continued to farm. Tenant farming was practiced on this and other farms.

Community Planning and Development

The district is significant in community planning and development for its development as a rural crossroads community. The community was first settled c. 1800 by William Wiley. The Wiley family was influential in the community's development and served as store operators and postmasters. Nails Creek Baptist Church was established in 1787, and the first church building was constructed c. 1800. Nails Creek was a fairly large community in the 1880s with about 100 residents.

**National Register Criteria**

The Nails Creek District meets National Register Criteria A and C by being a representative example of a crossroads community developed in mid-19th century northeast Georgia along the Old Federal Road. Many of its buildings exhibit local craftsmanship and the use of local materials typical of this period.

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**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

N/A

**Period of significance (justification, if applicable)**

The period of significance for the Nails Creek Historic District begin with the development of the cemetery c. 1864 and ends with the end of the historic period, 1946.

**Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)**

The contributing resources were constructed within the period of significance and maintain integrity. The one site is the Nails Creek Cemetery associated with the Nails Creek Baptist Church. The six noncontributing resources either were constructed after 1946 or have lost historic integrity.

**Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)**

The Nails Creek Historic District developed as a crossroads community complete with a church (Nails Creek Baptist Church), a single primary residence (the William Wiley House), tenant houses, two stores and eventually an automobile service station. The Wiley family is credited with creating much of the activity and growth of this district. Although always known as Nails Creek by residents and many people from surrounding communities, the district was known as Jewellville for a period of perhaps 30 years when a post office of that name was operated near the William Wiley House. At its peak as a community Nails Creek had a population in excess of 100 in the early 1880s (according to the 1881-1882 Georgia State Gazetteer). Like all of the settlements along the Old Federal Road, however, Nails Creek declined rapidly during the 1920s and 1930s.

The Nails Creek Baptist Church was established on February 11, 1787 with Reverend Moses Sanders among the founders. Although it is not known exactly when the first church building was constructed, the land for the church was given by William Wiley (b. 1782), who arrived in the vicinity of Nails Creek around 1800. Wiley built a log house on the south side of the Federal Road, almost exactly opposite the present site of the William Wiley House. There he lived with his wife, Polley, whom he married in 1801. William was a subsistence farmer and also operated a small general store and served as postmaster for Nails Creek for many years.



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The Wiley's fourth child was William J. (1812-1881), who followed his father as a local farmer, store owner and postmaster. He built the William Wiley House c. 1870. Two of William J. and Elizabeth Wiley's sons played important roles in the Nails Creek community as well. William Dudley Wiley built and operated the Nails Creek store beginning in 1881, but he died two years later. His widow, Mary Ariail, married W.H.T. Gillespie, (1861-1923) who gained control of William J. Wiley's land. The Wiley's oldest son, George, had a store which is still standing by the Old Federal Road and known as the Nails Creek Store. (A small store is also located on the William Wiley House property, but this is a different building.) The post office was located there for several decades as well. Mail was brought twice a week. An old ad for this store reads "George W. Wiley. Dealer in Dry goods, Notions, Clothing. Look out! Off the track. A train load of new goods for George W. Wiley. Boots, Hats, and Caps. Groceries. Country produce and Provisions. Jewelville, Georgia." George also served as the local dentist.

The Nails Creek Baptist Church in present day Banks County was established February 11, 1787. The Rev. Moses Sanders was among the church's founders. A native of Westshire, England (born 1732 or 1742), Sanders settled as a young man in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, and was a Revolutionary War veteran. He worked among the Indians and early Georgia settlers with fellow Virginian Baptist missionaries Dozier Thornton, Littleton Meeks and Thomas Johnson.

Sanders was pastor at Nails Creek Church until he organized a congregation at Grove Level in 1802. He died in 1817 or 1818 and was buried in his family cemetery. Littleton Meeks was pastor of the Nails Creek Church in 1836. He died in 1853 and was buried in the family cemetery about four miles west of Homer. His ministry had covered over sixty-nine years.

The first church building burned in 1864 and the congregation was without a building until 1868 when a second church, described as a "very inferior framed house" was built. It was used until 1881 when it was torn down and replaced by a third church, a "neat framed building", used until 1908 when it was sold and the present church built. (Part of this third church now stands on the William Harvey Chambers House property, an individual property along the Old Federal Road.)

The present structure was erected in 1908, using locally made bricks and it cost \$6,000. The walls are solid brick with no wooden framing, but large wooden posts have been added down the center of the sanctuary ceiling for support. The education wing was added in 1968.

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Lemuel Ariail, killed in the Civil War, was the first person buried in the Nails Creek cemetery. The cemetery provides considerable information about families that lived in the Nails Creek Historic District.

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## **9. Major Bibliographic References**

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Aerial photos, from University of Georgia collections:

Banks County 1938, 1941, 1942, 1951, 1956, 1980

Photographs: Taken April-May, 1985 by Sybil A. Bowers and October 1990 by John Kissane

Historic maps, from University of Georgia collections:

1818 Georgia map, includes roads

1829 Georgia map, includes roads

1836 A New Map of Georgia with its Roads and Distances

1846 A New Map of Georgia with its Roads and Distances

1860 County Map of Georgia and Alabama

1883 Georgia State Gazetteer map

1894 Post Route map

1909 USDA Soils Map of Franklin County

1909 Map of Banks County

1916 Department of Agriculture map of the State of Georgia

Interviews, Roger McConnell by Sybil A. Bowers

10 December 1984, 17 April 1985, 24 April 1985, 1 May 1985,

15 May 1985, 22 May 1985, 29 May 1985

Interviews, Roger McConnell by Susan Casey

January 1990 and October 1990

National Register Nomination for Homer, Georgia, written September, 1984

Road maps, Georgia Mountains RDC collections:

1972, Banks County

Sherwood, Adiel. Gazetteer of the State of Georgia 1827, 1860

Georgia State Gazetteers, 1879-80, 1881-82, 1886

USGS topographic maps, 1967:

Homer quadrangle

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) N/A

( ) 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 # N/A

( ) recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # N/A

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**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office**
- Other State Agency**
- Federal agency**
- Local government**
- University**
- Other, Specify Repository:**  
Georgia Mountains RDC

**Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):**

Nails Creek Baptist Church # 70 (Banks County)

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** Approximately 100 acres

**UTM References**

A) Zone 17 Easting 279780 Northing 3805970  
B) Zone 17 Easting 279770 Northing 3805730  
C) Zone 17 Easting 278860 Northing 3805600  
D) Zone 17 Easting 278670 Northing 3805800  
E) Zone 17 Easting 279150 Northing 3804120

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the property is indicated as a solid black line drawn to scale on the accompanying National Register Boundary map. This map is based on the current county tax maps which are drawn to a scale of 1"=600'. These maps are the largest scale maps available for this rural area.

**Boundary Justification**

The district boundaries encompass the intact contiguous historic properties comprising the Nails Creek community.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**name/title** Preservation Planner  
**organization** Georgia Mountains Regional Development Center  
**street & number** Post Office Box 1720  
**city or town** Gainesville **state** Georgia **zip code** 30503  
**telephone** 404-536-3431 **date** Completed - Fall, 1990

**name/title** John Kissane  
**organization** Private Consultant  
**street & number** 682 Ridgewood Avenue  
**city or town** Gainesville **state** Georgia **zip code** 30501  
**telephone** (770) 535-1430 **date** Completed - November 1990

**Reviewed and Edited by:**

**name/title** Amy Pallante/National Register Specialist  
**organization** Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**street & number** 500 The Healey Building, 57 Forsyth Street  
**city or town** Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303  
**telephone** (404) 651-6033 **date** August 1996

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Photographs

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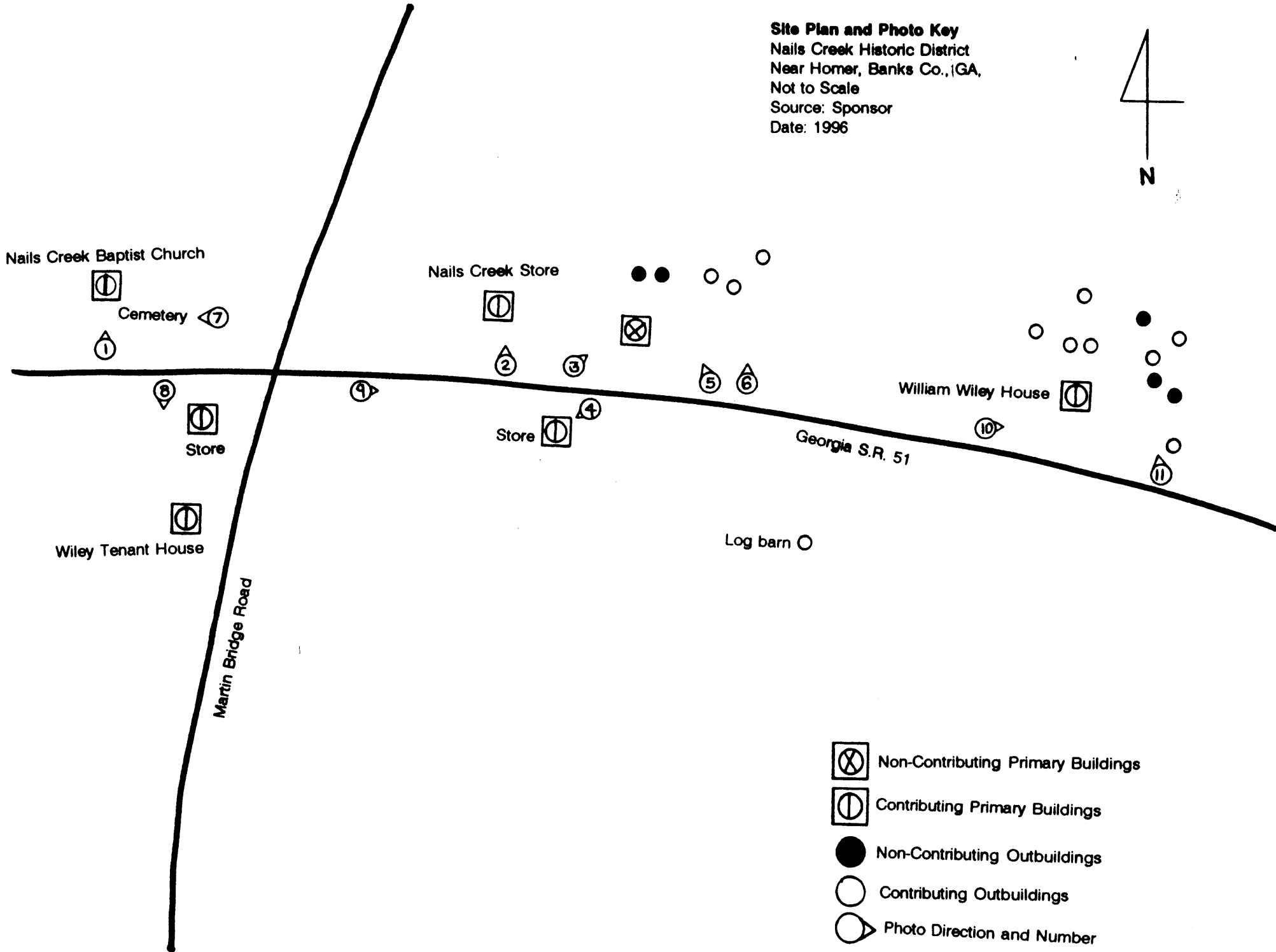
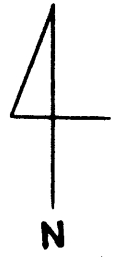
**Name of Property:** Nails Creek District  
**City or Vicinity:** Homer  
**County:** Banks  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** March 9, 1994






**Note:** Photography was field checked in July, 1996; photographs still convey an accurate representation of the properties.

**Description of Photograph(s):**

- Photo 1 of 12 Nails Creek Baptist Church; photographer facing north.  
Photo 2 of 12 Nails Creek Store; photographer facing north.  
Photo 3 of 12 House within district; photographer facing northeast.  
Photo 4 of 12 Front facade of store; photographer facing southwest.  
Photo 5 of 12 Outbuildings and barn; photographer facing northwest.  
Photo 6 of 12 Barn and fields; photographer facing north.  
Photo 7 of 12 Nails Creek Baptist Church and Cemetery; photographer facing west.  
Photo 8 of 12 Store; photographer facing south.  
Photo 9 of 12 Old Federal Road streetscape; photographer facing east.  
Photo 10 of 12 William Wiley House; photographer facing northeast.  
Photo 11 of 12 William Wiley House with outbuildings; photographer facing north.  
Photo 12 of 12 Interior; Nails Creek Baptist Church.

**Site Plan and Photo Key**  
 Nails Creek Historic District  
 Near Homer, Banks Co., GA.  
 Not to Scale  
 Source: Sponsor  
 Date: 1996



-  Non-Contributing Primary Buildings
-  Contributing Primary Buildings
-  Non-Contributing Outbuildings
-  Contributing Outbuildings
-  Photo Direction and Number

**National Register Boundary**

Nails Creek Historic District

Near Homer, Banks Co., GA.

Scale: 1"=660'

Source: Banks Co. Tax Map 16

Date: 1984

Key: The nominated district is marked by a heavy black line.

