

**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

For HCRS use only received	OCT 21 1980
date entered	NOV 24 1980

**1. Name**

historic James and Cunningham Daniel House

and/or common Kettle Creek Manor

**2. Location**

S of Rayle on

street & number Bartram Trace Road not for publication

city, town Rayle mi.  vicinity of congressional district Tenth-D.D. Barnard

state Georgia code 013 county Wilkes code 317

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. and Mrs. David T. Blackburn

street & number Route 1, Box 218A

city, town Rayle  vicinity of state Georgia 30660

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Wilkes County Courthouse

city, town Washington state Georgia

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Historic Structures Field Survey:

title Wilkes County, Georgia has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date April, 1977  federal  state  county  local

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

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

## 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Situated perpendicular to Bartram Trace Road twelve miles west of Washington, Georgia, the James and Cunningham Daniel House is a two-and-one-half-story dwelling with a fully above-grade basement. The tract is slightly hilly and covered with pine and hardwood forest. The remains of an oak allee approaching the Daniel house at an angle of approximately 25 degrees west of Bartram Trace Road suggest a more formal approach for the house at one time. The land immediately surrounding the house, approximately 50 feet in all directions, is cleared of most plant material and contains a few outbuildings described below. On the property are the remains of what is believed to be a slave burial plot.

The house is of brick construction laid in American Bond on a fieldstone base and is approximately 24 feet by 50 feet by 50 feet high. Radiating lintels with incised keystones and elliptical fanlight span the windows and entrance door respectively. The roof is shaked shingle and the two single-stack chimneys, one on either side of the house, are flush with the gable straddling the ridge.

On the interior there are seven rooms plus an attic. The entrance hall is flanked by single rooms of equal size with fireplaces centered in the east and west walls. This arrangement is repeated on the second floor with the west room here being divided into two rooms by an early partition wall. Thin paired columns, invected rectangles and sunburst panels are the significant mantel details. A moulded plaster ceiling medallion in the east parlor was destroyed by water damage prior to the restoration of the house by the present owners. Care has been taken in this restoration to use all building fabric remaining in situ to replicate as nearly as possible that which did not survive.

From the entrance hall, the stair, one of the most significant features of the house, ascends three stories to the attic. It is a continuous quarter-turn-and-winder type and is lit in the upper stories by a round, arched clerestory in the north and south walls. The stair descends in a single run to the basement which has served as food preparation and storage/workshop/animal shelter at different times and does not follow the two-room-central-hall plan of the upper floors.

Three structural additions have been made to the house. The original exterior stair, a straight-run type which did not survive, was recently replaced by a brick, double-squared stair. A vestibule and porch were added to the west entrance, and a straight-run stair added to the rear entrance to replace the original, which did not survive.

There were originally several outbuildings on the property to support a self-sustaining plantation, but only a one-room log house of undetermined age and usage survives. Some of the outbuildings remaining on the property in 1967, when the Blackburns began restoration, were thought by the present owners to have been slaves' quarters. These were destroyed by construction crews without permission

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of the new owners when the site was being prepared for restoration. A small guest cottage and storage shed have been erected near the house in recent years for use by the present owners. The cottage and main house are used both as private residences and as commercial showrooms for antiques.

# 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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history

Specific dates 1810-1819

Builder/Architect

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The James and Cunningham Daniel House, ca. 1810-1819, is nominated for its significance in early settlement, local history and architecture. The house is significant in the areas of settlement and local history for its association with the Daniel family, who were among the first to receive land grants in Wilkes County, which was created in 1777 from the Ceded Lands acquired from the Creek Nation in 1773. They were also early founders of the Presbyterian Church in the eastern Piedmont region of Georgia. Architecturally, the house is a pretentious and unusual example of a brick Federal style, "I"-type house occurring in backcountry Georgia and is significant for the fine quality of its design and interior finishes.

The Daniel family settled in the Greene-Wilkes-Taliaferro-Oglethorpe County region of the Ceded Lands and left several homes and gravesites marking their contribution to the settlement of those areas. According to Daniel family historian Mrs. Dorothy Daniel Wright Normandy, the Daniel family emigrated from Chevy Chase, England, to Prince Edward County, Virginia, in the mid-1600s. John Daniel, the first American born of this family, immigrated through the Carolinas to Georgia with three brothers: James, William and David, in the last quarter of the eighteenth century and settled in the newly formed Wilkes County region. (William Daniel is listed among the settlers receiving land grants between September 27, 1773, and June 12, 1775.) James Daniel was the original owner of the land on which the brick house was built. His will of 1821 and his son Thomas' will of 1831 both indicate the prominence and prosperity of the Daniel family in the Wilkes area. The first lists \$2,000 and several plantations and slaves and the second includes "a large est. of houses, lands, stock in trade, slaves etc to the amount of \$20,000.00." Several of the early Daniel homes remain in the area.

David Daniel's ca.-1795 frame house in Philomath, Georgia, and Robert Cunningham Daniel's Greek Revival house of ca. 1830, also in Philomath, are within about six miles of the Daniel brick house. Another later brick house with a four-over-four, central-hall plan in nearby Oglethorpe County has long been called the Daniel House, but only came into the family through Elizabeth Dillard, wife of Amaziah Daniel, great-grandson of James Daniel. Other physical evidence of the Daniel settlements include family gravesites, one within 100 feet of this house.

Apart from roles played in early settlement, the James and Cunningham Daniel House and its occupants were also significant in the local history of Wilkes and the surrounding county region. According to the late Frances Dillard Nash, whose

[continued]

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**  
**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

Acreeage of nominated property 50.2 acres

Quadrangle name Philomath, Ga.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

**UMT References**

A 

1	7
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3	2	2	7	1	0
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3	7	2	8	6	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

1	7
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3	2	3	1	1	0
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3	7	2	8	7	5	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

1	7
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3	2	3	0	9	0
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3	7	2	8	0	0	0
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D 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** Boundaries are depicted on the attached plat map. This represents all of the original property owned by the present owners of the house. The plat is recorded in Wilkes Co., Ga., Plat Book 3, p. 147, and the deed in Wilkes Co., Ga. Deed Book A-82, pp. 507-08.

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title a) Ann DeRosa Byrne, consultant  
b) Historic Preservation Section Contact: Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr.

organization a) represented owners  
b) Ga. DNR, Historic Preservation Section date April 1, 1980

street & number a) 1343 Peachtree Street, H-3 a) (404) 892-5743  
b) 270 Washington Street, S.W. telephone b) (404) 656-2840

city or town a) Atlanta  
b) 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 Acting State Historic Preservation Officer date 10/2/80

For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register <u>James W. Ray</u> Keeper of the National Register	date <u>11/24/80</u>
Attest: <u>Carol Duhme</u> Chief of Registration	date <u>11/24/80</u>

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great-grandparents were the second generation to occupy the house, the brick house was built for Cunningham Daniel on land belonging to his father, James between 1810-1819. In James Daniel's will of 1821, Cunningham Daniel inherited the land on which he was living including slaves and all appurtenances on the property, thus beginning the family transfer of the property, which lasted until 1967. The title was passed by estate first from James to his son Cunningham, from Cunningham to his son Samuel Ewing Daniel, from Samuel Ewing Daniel to his daughter Frances Daniel Dillard, from Frances Dillard to her son Roy Dillard, who was the last family descendant to live in the house. He died in 1954. The house was vacant from about 1945 until 1967, when the heirs of Roy Dillard, the William H. Carlsons, sold the house to Mr. and Mrs. David Blackburn of Texas. The Blackburns have restored and occupied the house since that time. They have named it "Kettle Creek Manor," for the three branches of Kettle Creek running through their property. The Revolutionary War battlesite of the same name is one and one-half miles from the house.

The Daniel family contribution to local history centers on the establishment of the Presbyterian Church in the Ceded Lands area of Georgia. James Daniel and two others were founding members of Liberty Church, which was built near the Kettle Creek battlesite. Liberty is thought to have been the earliest Presbyterian church in the area, and since most of the members of the church had fought in the Kettle Creek battle, it is not surprising that they chose the name Liberty for the church that was founded in 1783, the same year that Independence was won. As the congregation of the church moved to other nearby locations, the Daniel family remained as founding members and elders. Samuel Ewing Daniel (1811-1896), son of Cunningham Daniel, who was also active in the church organization, was an elder in the congregation and with his wife, Mary Slaton, raised five children in this house.

The house is significant architecturally as a fine example of a Federal-style backcountry dwelling. The Federal style of architecture lasted in this country from about 1780 to 1820. Semi-elliptical fanlighted entrance, tall narrow windows with radiating lintels, delicate mouldings and elliptical patera are some of the features common to this house and to the style in general. The house is also exemplary of the specific expression of the Federal style in Georgia's hinterlands, which was somewhat retardataire in comparison with Virginia and the New England states. Generally, Federal motifs were simply applied to an indigenous simple frame house often raised on piers with a tall narrow profile and shed additions. Woodville is a well-known example of such a house in the same piedmont region. This type of house, called Plantation Plain by Frederick Doveton Nichols, was characteristic of eastern Georgia piedmont houses built in the early-eighteenth century. The James and Cunningham Daniel House is an unusual example of the same backcountry, Federal-style motifs applied to an "I" type, as opposed to the Plantation Plain, which was more common in Georgia. ("I" refers to the plan of the

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house of two rooms joined by a hall and to the tall form it often produced.) The Daniel House is unusually vertical in profile and, for this and the quality of its finishes, is somewhat unique in Georgia architecture. Even the few similarly styled period houses of brick construction in McDuffie County and Savannah use the more familiar hall and parlor or four-over-four, central hall plan. In contrast, the quality of craftsmanship and the overall form of the Daniel House would have been more typical of pretentious Federal-style dwellings in Virginia and New England and signals some training and familiarity with builders' guides on the part of the master builder. The builder/architect of the Daniel House is not known, but almost certainly he was one of the Virginia vortrekkers. The house is architecturally superior to many Georgia back-country houses of this period.

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Bibliography

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Hitz, Alex M. The Earliest Settlements in Wilkes County, Georgia Historical Quarterly, Vol. XL, No. 3 (Sept., 1956)

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Nash, Frances Dillard. The Daniel Family. Unpublished, undated.

Nichols, Frederick. The Architecture of Georgia. Savannah: Beehive Press, 1976.

Normandy, Mrs. Dorothy Daniel Wright. Pertinent Data, Kettle Creek Manor, Wilkes County, Georgia, Area. Unpublished, undated.

\_\_\_\_\_. "James Daniel descendants state gravesite preference," Washington News Reporter, October 4, 1979.

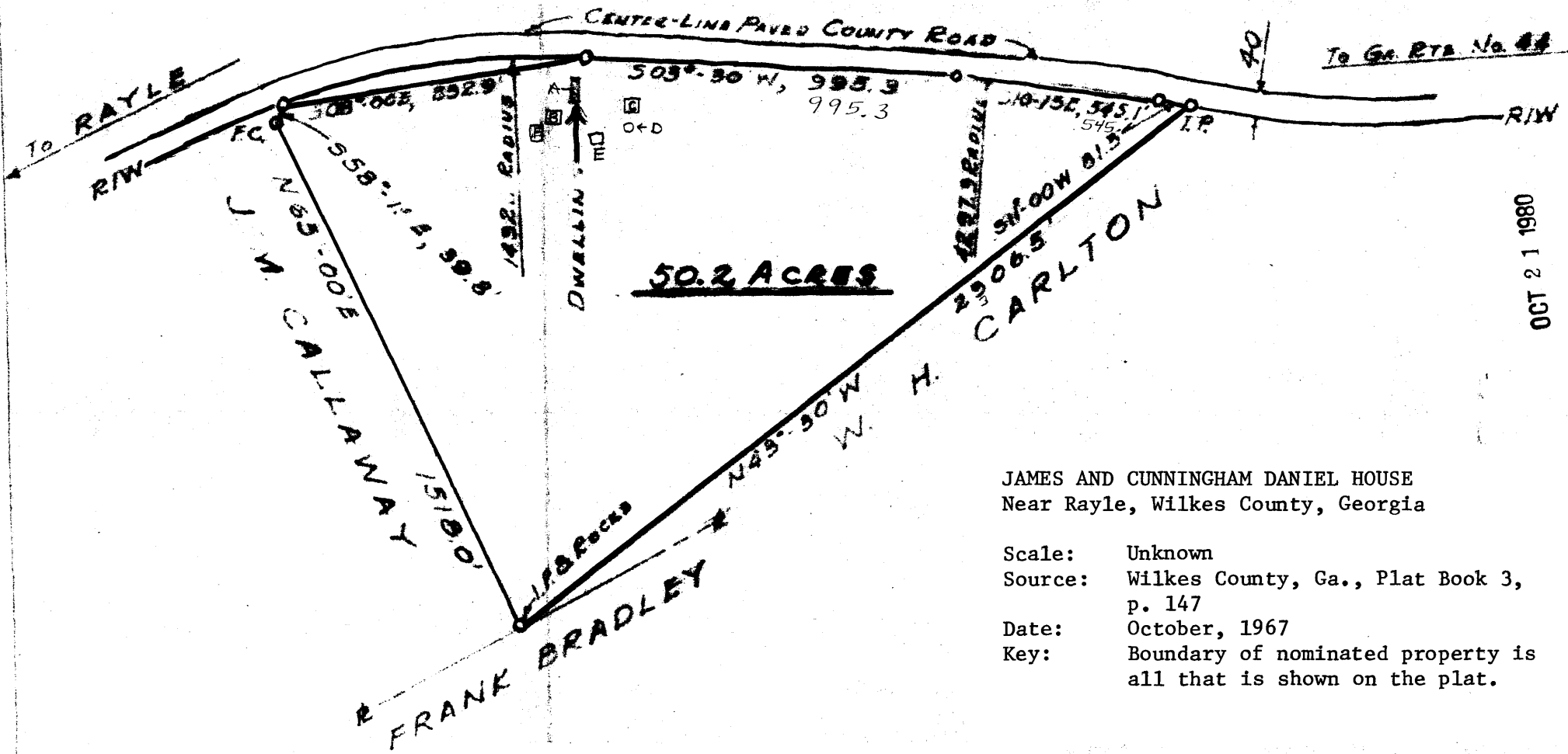
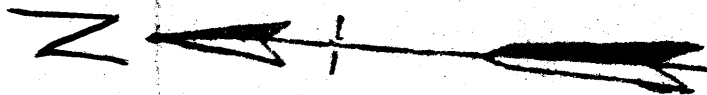
\_\_\_\_\_. Undated correspondence with Mr. and Mrs. David Blackburn. Records of South Liberty Presbyterian Church at Sharon and Philomath as cited by Mrs. Normandy.

\_\_\_\_\_. Wilkes County, Liberty Presbyterian Church. Unpublished, undated.

Wilkes County, Georgia, deeds and wills.

Personal Inspection, April 1980, by Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., and Richard Cloues.





**50.2 ACRES**

JAMES AND CUNNINGHAM DANIEL HOUSE  
Near Rayle, Wilkes County, Georgia

Scale: Unknown  
 Source: Wilkes County, Ga., Plat Book 3, p. 147  
 Date: October, 1967  
 Key: Boundary of nominated property is all that is shown on the plat.

OCT 21 1980



- Key:
- A - Main House
  - B - Guest Cottage (new)
  - C - Storage Building (new)
  - D - Well
  - E - Storage Building (new)
  - F - Storage Building (old)

(Not drawn or located to scale on this map.)

NOV 24 1980

TRACT IN 169TH GMD WILKES COUNTY  
 GEORGIA  
 CUT OFF THE LANDS OF W.H. CARLTON  
 FOR DAVID BLACKBURN  
 WILLIAM B. PICKLEN  
 DATE OCT 1967