

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAY 28 1986
date entered JUN 26 1986

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

1. Name

historic Dement House

and/or common Colonial Acres

2. Location

street & number Cainsville Pike

N/A not for publication

city, town Lascassas vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Rutherford code 149

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Harvey Peyton and Helen Carmine Jordon Peyton

street & number Route 2, Cainsville Pike

city, town Lascassas vicinity of state Tennessee

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Rutherford County Judicial Building

street & number 26 Public Square

city, town Murfreesboro state Tennessee

6. Representation in Existing Surveys See Continuation Sheet

Tennessee Historical Commission Survey Files
title TN Dept. of Trans. Survey Files has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1985 federal state county local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission 701 Broadway
Tennessee Department of Transportation 505 Deaderick
Nashville Tennessee 37219-5237
city, town Nashville state Tennessee 37203

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

The Dement House is located in rural northeastern Rutherford County, just west of the small community of Lascassas. The vernacular Greek Revival house sits back approximately two hundred feet from Cainsville Pike on a slight rise, surrounded by several large trees. Four stone posts are located near the road; two identify the driveway entrance and two identify the walkway to the front door.

Although concealed today by four-inch yellow poplar weatherboard siding, the house is constructed entirely of logs. Built in 1833 by local builder, Arch Hite, the main block of the house is a massive two-story gable-roofed structure, resting on a stone foundation. An exterior cut stone chimney marks each gable end. The central bay of the three bay front (east) facade is delineated by a two-story pedimented portico which, today, rises from a concrete porch base. Solid cedar columns on concrete bases support the pediment. Within this central bay is a recessed entryway consisting of a wide and unusually short (approximately six feet high) door opening with the original double-leaf doors, sidelights, and a transom. On the second story, the balcony, with its lattice rail, is reached through a double-leaf door with sidelights identical to those on the doorway directly below. Six over six windows on the first and second stories flank the central bay. Each window has working louvered wooden shutters hung on metal hinges. One six over six sash window is also found on the first story of each gable end. On the second story, there is a small square vent at each end.

Extending westward at a right angle from the rear of the main house is the original one-pen log cabin and an enclosed dog trot. An exterior stone chimney, similar to those on the main block of the house, marks the gable end of the original cabin built in 1817. Between 1817 and 1825, another one-pen log cabin was built directly to the east and connected to the older cabin by a dog trot. Today, this early dog trot cabin forms an ell to the 1833 main block of the house. Like the main block, the ell has been sheathed with weatherboard siding. The shed roof south porch of the old cabin has been extended and enclosed. One story shed roof additions were appended to the rear (southwest) facade of the main block and to the north facade of the 1817-1825 cabin. A small one story gable roof addition was built on to the west end of the south cabin porch and serves as the bathroom.

The main block of the house was built on the central hall plan. This portion of the house has retained most of its original integrity, including six inch ash floors, six inch yellow poplar paneling on walls and ceilings, mantels, and window and door trim. Downstairs there are seven rooms plus the hall, and upstairs two huge rooms divided by the central hall.

The 1817 one-pen cabin portion of the house has probably undergone the most alterations. The cabin, now the kitchen, has had sheetrock applied to the walls and ceiling, and the original fireplace has been blocked shut and the mantel has been removed. However, the raised hearth is extant.

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 checked="" 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 1817–1936 **Builder/Architect** Arch Hite

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Dement House is being nominated under National Register criteria B and C for its historical and architectural significance to Lascassas, Rutherford County, Tennessee. The Dements were significant as early Middle Tennessee settlers who assumed an active role in the establishment and development of Rutherford County. The Dement House is representative of the prosperous Dement Family and is architecturally significant because it is an excellent example of the evolution of a pioneer homestead.

Of French ancestry, three Dement brothers emigrated to this country and settled on the James River in Virginia prior to the Revolution. It is said that all three brothers fought in the Revolutionary War. In 1798, one of the brothers, Charles Dement, moved with his family to Davidson County, Tennessee. He purportedly had seventy-five slaves and vast land holdings in the area around present-day Smyrna, Tennessee.

Abner and Cader Dement, sons of Charles Dement, signed the August 10, 1803 petition requesting the establishment of Rutherford County. After the new county was created and Jefferson was appointed its county seat, it is known that Charles, Abner, and Cader Dement served on the early courts there. The 1810 population schedule lists Cader Dement with seven children and three slaves and Abner Dement with five children and one slave.

After living in Jefferson for a time, Abner acquired 640 acres of land along Cainsville Pike near Lascassas in 1817 from government surveyor, John Donelson. The first structure he built was a one-pen log cabin on the west side of Cainsville Pike. Soon after, Dement built a second pen connected to the original cabin by a dogtrot. According to family tradition, Abner was mortally wounded by his own slave in 1825. The slave was apprehended and subsequently lynched.

After Abner's death, his son, John Dement, inherited the family land with its dogtrot log cabin. He lived there with his wife, Christine Overall Dement, and his family. John Dement and his brother, David, formed a partnership and together they acquired and operated several large farms in the Lascassas area. In addition to farming, the brothers bought and sold horses and John became a practicing veterinarian. It is said that the brothers gave land for the Lascassas School.

In 1833, John Dement hired Arch Hite, a local builder, to enlarge his log cabin. Hite built a two-story central hall plan log structure onto the gable end of the dogtrot cabin. The original cabin thus became the ell of the new house. It is thought that soon after the house was built, it was weatherboarded and the Greek Revival Style portico was constructed.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Beers, D.G. & CO. Map of Rutherford County, Tennessee. Philadelphia: D. G. Beers & Co. 1878.
Federal Census, Rutherford County, Tennessee, 1850, 1860.
Jernigan, Madeline. Family member, Rutherford County, Tennessee. Interview, 6 March 1985.
Rhodes, Rachel. Lascassas - Our Heritage. n.p., 1981.
Rutherford County Historical Society Publications. Volume 3, Volume 4.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 4.67 Acres

Quadrangle name Lascassas, TN

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	6	5	6	6	1	2	0	3	9	7	6	4	7	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundaries for the Dement House follow the property lines on this 4.67 acre tract; being Cainsville Pike (State Route 266) on the east, and adjoining property lines on the south, west, and north. (See tax map) This includes sufficient land to protect the architectural and historic integrity of the nominated property.

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margaret Slater, Staff Historian

organization Tennessee Department of Transportation date January, 1986

street & number 505 Deaderick telephone 615-741-5363

city or town Nashville state Tennessee 37219

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.

Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hayer

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 5/23/86

For NPS use only

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

for Allred Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Recorded in
National Register

date 6-26-86

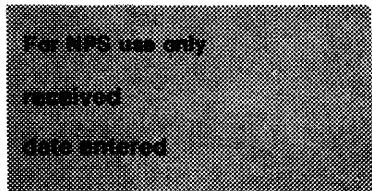
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet Dement House Item number 7 Page 2

The 1825 dog trot and north room of the main block of the house have also had sheet rock applied to the walls and ceilings. The wood trim in both of these rooms remains intact. The north room has two entrances with shouldered architrave trim and a fireplace with a brick surround and pilasters and molded panel entablature mantel.

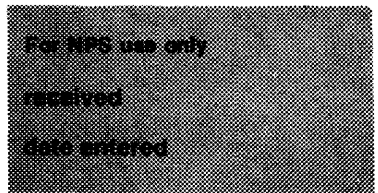
The south room, or parlor, and the central hall of the main block of the house retain their original integrity. The six inch ash floors and six inch tongue and groove paneling on the walls and ceiling remain intact. The south room is almost identical to the north room, with its pilasters and molded panel entablature fireplace mantel and shouldered architrave door trim. However, the fireplace, double panel door, and the wood trim have been retained in their natural color.

An open staircase is located against the north wall of the central hall. The stairs have a simple square newel post and balustrade. Scalloped wood trim is applied to the sides of the stairs. Matching double entrance doors are located at each end of the hall. The entrances each have a single screen door that extends the width of the entrance.

Located behind the house are five outbuildings and a family cemetery. The five outbuildings date from c.1900-1910 and the majority were covered with corrugated metal siding in 1985. The buildings include a one-story, gable roof smokehouse built in 1909 and recently covered with corrugated metal siding; a large one-story frame garage/storage building with both shed and gable roofs sheathed with corrugated siding (was probably two structures at one time); and a gable roof storage building with knee braces and vertical board and metal siding. The other two outbuildings on the property are two small frame sheds. The family cemetery is located in an open field behind the house and it dates from c.1825. The three larger outbuildings and cemetery are contributing resources within the boundaries of the nominated property.

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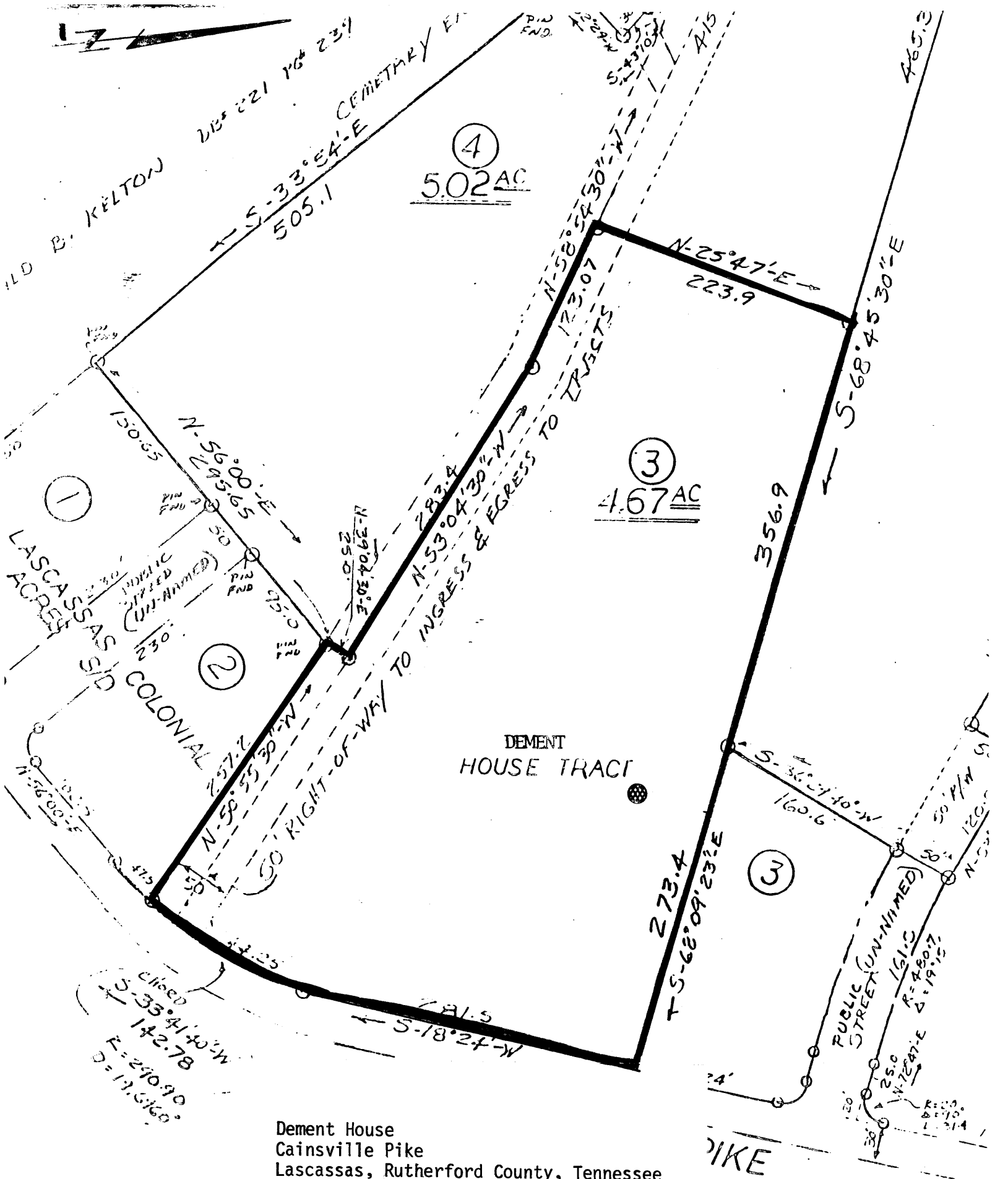


Continuation sheet Dement House Item number 8 Page 2

The house passed to Dr. John Dement's daughter, Anna, who resided there with her husband, Benjamin F. Jordon. Upon their deaths, the property transferred to their daughter, Helen Carmine Jordon Peyton and her husband, Harvey Peyton. Mrs. Peyton, who has always lived in the house, now resides there with her husband, daughter, Madeline Peyton Jernigan, and granddaughter, Bobbie Lynn Jernigan, the fourth, fifth, and sixth generations of the family to reside in the house.

The house originally sat on 123 acres and, until five years ago, the property was a working farm. Crops raised on the farm included small grains, corn, soybeans, and milo. In 1985, the land surrounding the house was auctioned off, leaving a 4.56 acre lot.

Architecturally, the house is an intact and excellent example of the evolution of a pioneer homestead from a one-pen log cabin to a two-story log house, later converted into a vernacular Greek Revival house, a style often found in Middle Tennessee. The house is also one of the earliest log structures remaining in Rutherford County.



Dement House
 Cainsville Pike
 Lascassas, Rutherford County, Tennessee

TAX MAP 1" = 100'



1" = APPROX. 100'