

# INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR  THEMATIC NOMINATION

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC John E. Wilson House

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
Down long lane on east side SR 1631 just N of SR 1630  NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Dunn vic.  VICINITY OF Third CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE North Carolina CODE 037 COUNTY Sampson CODE 163

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<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
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mrs. Dorothy Barefoot

STREET & NUMBER Rt. 6, Box 144 A

CITY, TOWN Dunn VICINITY OF NC STATE 28344

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. REGISTER OF DEEDS  
STREET & NUMBER SAMPSON COUNTY COURT HOUSE  
CITY, TOWN CLINTON, N.C. 28328 STATE

## 6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Thomas Butchko Jim Sumner, Researcher DATE August 19, 1985  
ORGANIZATION Survey and Planning Branch TELEPHONE (919) 733-6545  
STREET & NUMBER 109 E. Jones St. STATE North Carolina 27611  
CITY OR TOWN Raleigh,

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE 1975
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		1984

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The ca. 1878 John E. Wilson House is both the most elaborately decorated example of the county's several traditional two-story, single-pile, center-false-gable houses and the finest Italianate Victorian house in Sampson County. Built as a boarding house for teachers and students in conjunction with Shady Grove School, the house, with its richly decorated sawnwork two-tier porch, is an excellent example of the quality of the area's late 19th century workmanship. The vacant house was moved 500 yards in 1975 and again in 1984 by the current owners who have restored the dwelling. The first move was to make room for a more modern house; the second move was to prevent the razing of the house.

An intricate double-tier porch of turned posts with ornamental scrolls and a sawn-slat balustrade graces the three central bays of this charming frame weatherboarded house. Slender cornerboards with simple molded capitals support the boxed cornice which is further ornamented with brackets having a sawn pendant on the exterior face. The houses's front and end gables each have louvered trefoil vents and returning cornice. Window sash have segmental arch tops and four-over-four square sash; the surrounds are flat. The bold, double door entrance is slightly recessed with molded interior panels and has an arched transom window and round-headed door windows. On the rear northwest corner is a three-room ell with similar arched windows—a shed porch runs along its southwest elevation and terminated with the engaged pantry at the end of the ell. The remainder of the house's rear elevation is occupied by a one-story shed room. The chimneys on the exterior rear of the main block and on the ell were lost in moving.

The central hall interior was originally plastered; however, the first rough move necessitated the eventual removal of the plaster and lathing; the interior has since been resurfaced with sheetrock. Vernacular Eastlake style mantels grace the downstairs front parlors. The ceilings are beaded tongue-and-grppve sheathing; surrounds are simple and two-part. The doors have five raised panels. Immediately inside the entrance rises the stiarway with a turned balustrade. The second floor is three steps above the level of the porch and is treated similarly to the first floor.

The present owner, Mrs. Dorothy Barefoot is a descendant of John E. Wilson. She had the house moved in 1984 to prevent its destruction by the former owner who had moved the house a short distante and who planned to renovate it. This was not feasible for him and he built a new dwelling and planned to have the Wilson House demolished. Mrs. Barefoot has restored the house and she and her family now occupy the house. It is now located down a long dirt lane, similar to the dirt road on which it was formerly located, and is at the woodline, surrounded by cultivated fields, retaining its original rural setting.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

\_\_\_\_ NATIONAL

\_\_\_\_ STATE

XX LOCAL

## 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

## SPECIFIC DATES

ca 1878

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John E. Wilson House is both the most elaborately decorated example of the county's several two-story, single-pile, center-false-gable houses and the finest Italianate Victorian house in Sampson County. Built about 1878 for John E. Wilson (1855-1918), the house, used as a boarding house for teachers and students in conjunction with Shady Grove School, is an excellent example of the quality of the area's late 19th century workmanship. In 1975 the vacant house was to be razed to clear the site for new construction. Maxton Bass, an adjacent farmer, bought the house and moved it 500 yards to await restoration/renovation by his son, G. Puett Bass. Mrs. Dorothy Barefoot bought the house and moved it again to avoid demolition and has restored the house on its new site.

## CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. The John E. Wilson House is associated with the late 19th century development of a system of schools throughout rural North Carolina.
- C. The elaborately and extensively ornamented house is the county's prime example of the rich embellishment often added to the county's prevalent traditional house forms. It is also the finest Italianate Victorian dwelling in the county.

## CRITERIA EXCEPTIONS:

- B. The John E. Wilson house has been moved twice, once in 1975, to a site several hundred feet from its original site; and in 1984 to a site about five miles from its original site. The house is being nominated primarily on its architectural merits and remains one of, if not the best example of decorative Victorian ornament and workmanship in the county. The house, originally on a dirt road in a rural setting, was moved to a site down a long dirt path off a rural secondary road. Around the house are woods and fields of a working farm, preserving the rural, agricultural setting of the house.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The John E. Wilson House was built in the late 1870s for John E. Wilson. The house is located in the northern part of Sampson County, near the community of Spivey's Corner.

John Elliott Wilson (1855-1918) was the son of Jesse Wilson (1826-1901) and Edney Dudley Wilson. In 1878, he married Eunicy Jane Barefoot. It is believed that he built his house about this time. Wilson was a farmer and businessman who operated cotton gins, sawmills, and a shuttle factory in nearby Dunn. The 1880 census shows Wilson with the ownership of 210 acres valued at \$2,000, and livestock valued at \$200. He primarily grew cotton and corn.

John and Eunicy Wilson had eleven children, several of whom died at a young age. After John Wilson's death, the house became the property of their daughter, Ira O'Neal (1889-1968). For much of this period, the house was used to board faculty and students for the nearby Shady Grove School. Shady Grove was a private school founded by members of the Shady Grove Free Will Baptist Church, including Martin B. Wilson, a son of John E. Wilson. Shady Grove operated from 1915 until 1926, when it was destroyed by fire.

The Wilson house has been purchased and moved several times in recent years in order to avoid demolition. The present owner, Dorothy Barefoot, a descendant of the builder, is presently restoring the house.

FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Oscar M. Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, North Carolina (Winston-Salem: Hunter Publishing Company for the Sampson County Historical Society, 1983), 697, hereinafter cited as Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County; Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Sampson County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule.

<sup>2</sup>Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Sampson County, North Carolina, Population Schedule; Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, 105, 697-698.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Bizzell, Oscar M., ed. The Heritage of Sampson County, North Carolina. Winston-Salem: Hunter Publishing Company, 1983.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

.93 acre

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

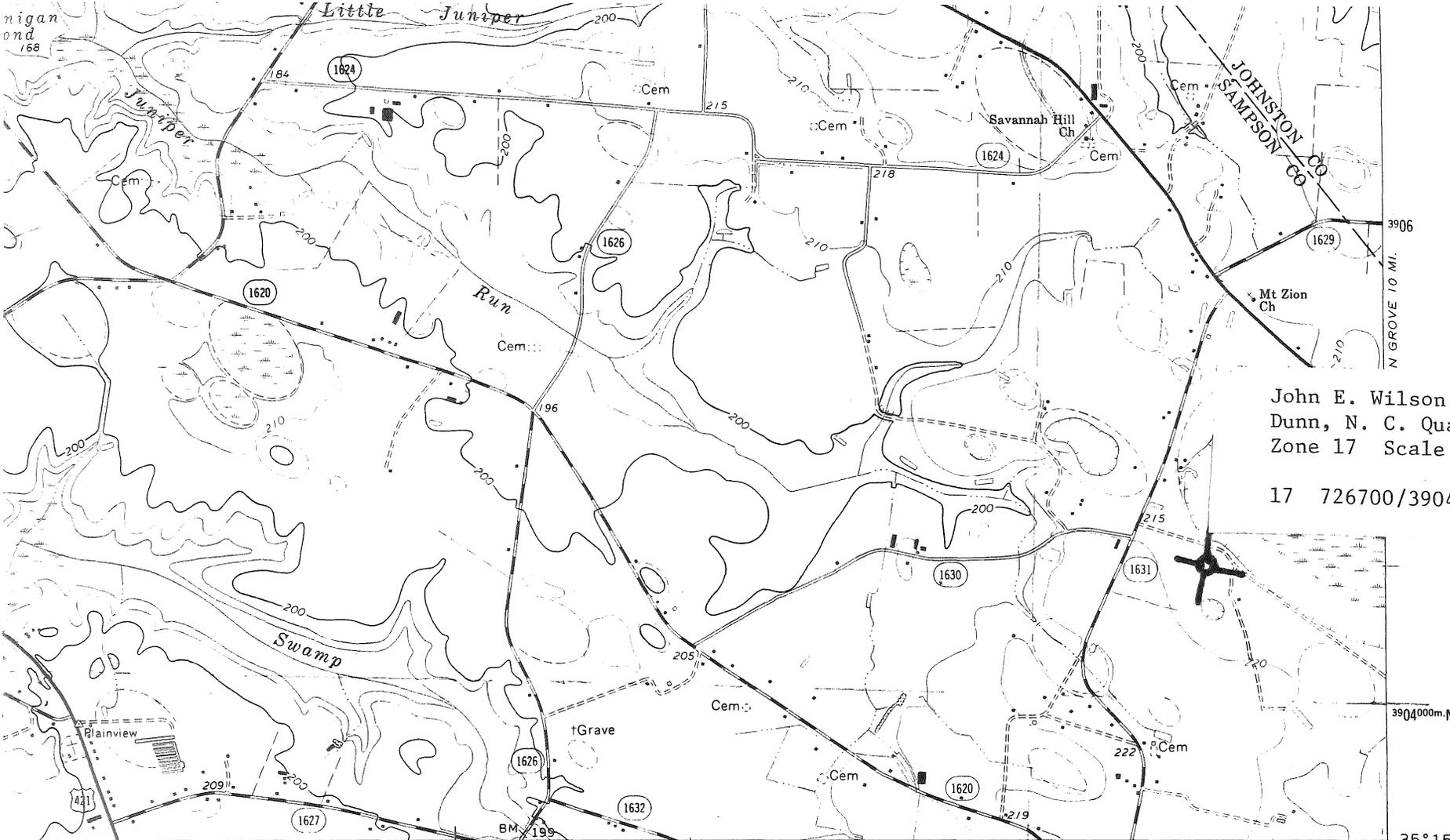
UTM REFERENCES

A	1 7	7 2 6 7 0 0	3 9 0 4 5 6 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

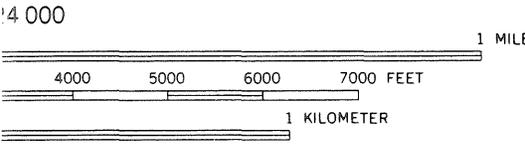
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property being nominated is just under one acre of the property owed by George Archie Barefoot and shown on the map attached.



John E. Wilson House  
 Dunn, N. C. Quad.  
 Zone 17 Scale 1:24 000  
 17 726700/3904560

722 724 725 726 727000m.E. 78° 30' 35° 15'



VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation with State of North Carolina agencies from aerial photographs taken 1980 and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1981

ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
○ Interstate Route	○ U. S. Route
	○ State Route

(COHARIE 1:62 500)  
 5354 III

DUNN, N. C.  
 N3515—W7830/7.5

1973  
 PHOTOREVISED 1981  
 DMA 5254 I SE—SERIES V842

NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
 AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

George Archie Barefoot

113.46'  
N 57° 16' 38" W

107.13'  
S 19° 10' 00" E

S 27° 44' 03" W

George Archie Barefoot  
0.93 Acre

N 27° 46' 12" E

343.85'

E of Ditch

373.74'

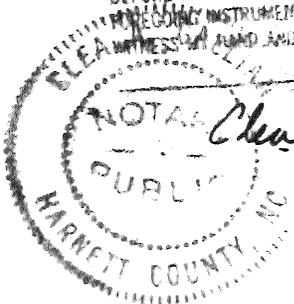
114.58'

S 72° 19' 45" E

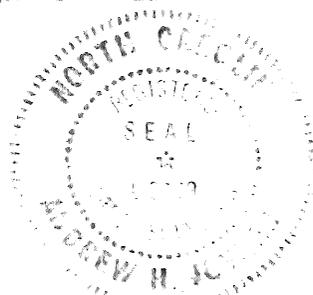
I, Andrew H. Joyner certify that under my direction and supervision this map was drawn from (an actual field and survey) (Deed description recorded in book \_\_\_\_\_ page \_\_\_\_\_) that the area of closure is calculated on latitudes and departures \_\_\_\_\_ that the boundaries not surveyed are shown as broken lines plotted from information in book \_\_\_\_\_ page \_\_\_\_\_ that this map was prepared in accordance with GS 47-30 as amended. WITNESSED my hand and seal this 15 day of June A. D. 1984.

*Andrew H. Joyner*

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, HARNETT COUNTY,  
I, Clea A. Gallian, a Notary Public, do hereby certify that  
Andrew H. Joyner personally appeared  
before me this day and acknowledged the execution of the  
foregoing instrument.  
WITNESSED my hand and official seal this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_  
June 1984.



*Clea A. Gallian*  
Clea A. Gallian, Notary Public



Commission Expires February 5, 1988

