

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR _____ THEMATIC NOMINATION
Wilson County

1 NAME

HISTORIC Edmondson-Woodard House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER .15 mi. down a dirt rd. on NE cor. Rt. 58 & SR 1542

CITY, TOWN

Stantonsburg

VICINITY OF

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

037

COUNTY

Wilson

CODE

195

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 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	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	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. Thomas Woodard

STREET & NUMBER

611 Raleigh Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Wilson

— VICINITY OF

STATE

N. C.

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Wilson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Nash St.

CITY, TOWN

Wilson

STATE

N. C.

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kate Ohno, Preservation Consultant to Wilson County

Oct. 15, 1981

ORGANIZATION

Survey & Planning Branch

DATE

Division of Archives & History

STREET & NUMBER

109 E. Jones St.

TELEPHONE

(919) 733-6545

CITY OR TOWN

Raleigh

STATE

N. C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Edmondson-Woodard House is located between Toisnot Swamp and Contentnea Creek about four miles north of Stantonsburg on Rt. 58. Both Contentnea Creek and Toisnot Swamp are major streams in Wilson County and the land upon which the Edmondson-Woodard House was built is well-watered and fertile. Contentnea Creek was the only navigable waterway in the Wilson County area in the second quarter of the nineteenth century when the house was built, and Stantonsburg became the area's first incorporated town in 1817. The present path of Rt. 58 follows an earlier road which linked the town of Wilson with Stantonsburg.

Wright Edmondson, a prosperous planter, built the Edmondson-Woodard House circa 1830, for an advertisement for his property dated 1835 describes the house as "entirely new" (See Statement of Significance). Also located on Edmondson's 1400 acres in 1835 "was a gin house and screw and all necessary outhouses." Today the house is set well back off the road in a grove of oaks. The house is screened from the road by young pine trees and an avenue leads from Rt. 58 to the front of the house. The house is two stories tall, follows an L-plan, and is sheltered by a gable roof. The earliest section of the house is a single-pile hall-and-parlor plan house with a shed along the rear elevation and double shoulder exterior end chimneys at the gable ends. The chimneys have been covered with stucco, so that the bond is not visible. The three-bay facade is sheltered by a hipped-roof porch with flared columns on brick plinths of 1920 vintage. In the mid-nineteenth century a two-story wing was added to the northeast end of the house. This wing projects about six feet on the north elevation from the main block. A massive single-shoulder exterior end chimney, also stuccoed, is located on the rear elevation of the wing. The usual shed-roof porches dating from the twentieth century project from the rear of the house.

The windows in the house have four-over-four replacement sashes throughout as well as simply molded three-part surrounds. One of the most unusual features of the house is the triple row of lacy gaugework on the rakeboards of the main block.

On the interior the house follows a hall-and-parlor plan with an enclosed stair leading from the rear of the front room to the second floor. Raised six-panel doors are used throughout and the doors and windows have deep molded surrounds. The two main rooms on the first floor have flat-panel wainscot and the parlor mantel is Federal in style boasting panelled pilasters and a heavily molded mantel shelf. The upstairs mantels in the main block are similar to the parlor mantel. The interior appointments of the wing indicate a later style, Greek Revival, and cruder workmanship. On the first floor of the wing the broad window surrounds are capped by a peaked lintel, and the mantel is of the simplest mid-nineteenth century type with plain pilasters supporting an unadorned shelf. On the second floor of the wing a Colonial Revival mantel with free-standing stop-fluted columns with egg-and-dart molding on the capitals has replaced an earlier mantel.

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The farm buildings surrounding the Edmondson-Woodard House are limited to a shed, a twentieth century well shelter and a metal sided former cotton gin, now a barn.

In front of the house and slightly to the north in the pine grove is the old Edmondson family graveyard.

The structure, of course, is closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological remains, such as trash pits, wells, and structural remains, which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the structure. Information concerning use patterns, social standing and mobility, as well as structural details are often only evident in the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the structure. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is probable that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

_____ NATIONAL

_____ STATE

X LOCAL

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE
___1500-1599	<u> X </u> AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE
___1600-1699	<u> X </u> ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	___MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
___1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
<u> X </u> 1800-1899	___COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES circa 1830

BUILDER/ARCHITECT N/A

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Edmondson-Woodard House is one of the finest Federal-style antebellum plantation houses extant in Wilson County. Built circa 1830 for Wright Edmondson, it was the home of one of Stantonsburg Township's major landed families. The simple but elegant form of this two-story three-bay house follows closely the form of other Federal plantation houses in the Wilson County area, but it is distinguished by the high degree in which its original appearance has been preserved and maintained over the years.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

B. The Edmondson-Woodard House is associated with Wright Edmondson, a prominent antebellum planter and with the Woodard family who have in Wilson County's history been members of the planter class and active in local religious and educational undertakings.

C. The Edmondson-Woodard House embodies the distinctive characteristics of a Federal style plantation house.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Edmondson-Woodard House, one of the last remaining antebellum plantation houses in Stantonsburg Township, was built circa 1830 by Wright Edmondson (sometimes spelled Edmundson). Edmondson was the son of Theophilus and Penelope Edmondson,¹ and he was born in 1796.² Edmondson was married circa 1817 to Susanna Dickinson, daughter of Shadrack Dickinson and Keziah Simms of Black Creek Township.³ The Simms family of Black Creek were among the most prominent landowners of that area and Shadrack Dickinson's holdings through his wife's family were extensive (for more information see the Black Creek Rural Historic District nomination).

Edmondson began to acquire property in the mid-1820s and more land was added to his holdings in the 1830s.⁴ The descriptions on the early deeds provide inadequate information as to which parcel of land eventually became the house property, but there is surprisingly good documentation as to the date of the house construction. In the mid-1830s many eastern North Carolinians were selling out and moving west. State revenues and property values were declining. Like many other planters in the area Edmondson decided to sell his property. The advertisement that he placed in the Tarborough Press of December 26, 1835, provides an excellent description of his holdings, including the house:

One of the Most Valuable PLANTATIONS In Edgecombe County, LYING on Tosnot Swamp, about four miles north of Stantonsburg, and two from Contentnea Creek, where boats pass to and from Newbern during the winter and spring. The Tract contains About 1400 Acres, About 800 cleared and in a high state of cultivation---the most of the land is well adapted to cotton. There are on the premises a good two story dwelling house, gin house and screw, and all necessary outhouses entirely new. A great bargain will be given in the above property, and terms made easy by the Subscriber.⁵

Judging by the wording of the advertisement the house must date between 1825 when Edmondson began to acquire property, and 1835, when the advertisement was written. A date of circa 1830 is consistent

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Edgecombe County Deeds, Edgecombe County Courthouse
Eighth and Ninth Census of the United States: 1860 and 1870. Wilson County.
Wilson County Deeds, Wilson County Courthouse
Wilson County Wills, Wilson County Courthouse

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 321 acres

E. 18 243580/3949180

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	24,23,1,0	3,94,97,4,0	B	1,8	24,37,4,0	3,95,06,0,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
c	1,8	24,43,2,0	3,94,98,8,0	D	1,8	24,40,7,0	3,94,93,0,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property being nominated is outlined in red on the enclosed planimetric map.

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with the style and construction of the main part of the house. For some unknown reason the property so enticingly described in the 1835 advertisement was not sold by Edmondson, but remained in his hands until his death circa 1861. The improved conditions following the political and economic changes made by the Constitutional Convention of 1835 may in part account for Edmondson's decision to keep the property.

Edmondson is said to have owned 3,000 acres of land between Toisnot Swamp and Black Creek, making him one of the leading landowners in Stantonsburg Township.⁶ By his death Edmondson was one of the wealthiest planters in North Carolina as well as being a local community leader.

At Edmondson's death his vast holdings were divided between his nine children; Rufus, Garry, James, Elizabeth (who married Redding S. Petway), Martha (who married John F. Saunders), Sarah (who married W. L. Quarles), Zillah, Penelope and Susan (who married Dr. William T. Brewer of Black Creek).⁷ His widow continued to live on the property⁸ until her death in 1872.⁹ Wright Edmondson is listed in the 1860 census, just prior to his death, as a farmer owning real property valued at \$32,000 and personal property valued at \$98,600.¹⁰ In 1860 four of his children, Zillah, James, Penelope and Susan were living at home.¹¹ Edmondson died between July 21, 1860, when the census was taken, and April 20, 1861 when his son Rufus conveyed his interest in his father's property to his sisters Zillah, Penelope and Susan.¹² Garry Edmondson did the same¹³ and Elizabeth Petway conveyed her interest to the three unmarried sisters as well as to her sister Sarah Quarles.¹⁴ Eight years later, in 1869, Sarah Quarles conveyed her interest to Zillah,¹⁵ and Penelope conveyed her interest to Zillah, Susan and Sarah Quarles.¹⁶ Zillah Edmondson devised her interest in the property to her brother, James P. Edmondson, and to her sisters Susan W. Brewer and Martha Saunders.¹⁷ Her will was probated on August 6, 1895.¹⁸ Early in the following year her heirs sold four hundred and thirty-six acres of the former Wright Edmondson property, including the house, to Warren Woodard.¹⁹

Warren Woodard was the son of William and Elizabeth Woodard²⁰ (for further information see the Woodard Family Rural Historic District nomination). Woodard, like his ancestors, was a prominent planter. According to the 1870 census he was born in 1823.²¹ In 1870, before he purchased the Edmondson property, he was living in Stantonsburg Township and he owned real property valued at \$10,000 and personal property valued at \$3,000.²² Woodard moved to Wilson before the turn of the century and it is unlikely that he ever occupied the Edmondson House in Stantonsburg Township.²³

Woodard devised one-third of his estate to his son, Walter F. Woodard, and this one-third included the house property in Stantonsburg Township.²⁴ Warren Woodard's will was probated on February 9, 1903.²⁵ Like his father, Walter F. Woodard was a town dweller, although he owned a good deal of farmland. Walter lived with his family in a large turn-of-the-

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century house at 400 North Goldsboro Street, Wilson, on "Woodard Circle", so called because of the four imposing houses built for the Woodard family in this area.²⁶ Thus, it appears that the Edmondson House was probably occupied by tenants until the early 1960s when Thomas H. Woodard and his wife Matilda Barnes Woodard began to renovate the house. Thomas H. Woodard inherited the property from his father, Walter F. Woodard, in 1923²⁷ and by 1960 he and his wife were using the house as a weekend retreat.²⁸ The Woodards enclosed the back porch, creating a modern kitchen and bath, and had the house wired for electricity, but they did little to otherwise alter the plan or exterior appearance of the house.²⁹

Upon Thomas Woodard's death in 1966 his wife, Matilda Woodard, inherited the property.³⁰ She is the present owner.

Footnotes

¹ Author's interview with Hugh B. Johnston, Jr., Wilson County Historian, hereinafter cited as Johnston interview.

² Eighth Census of the United States: 1860, Wilson County, North Carolina.

³ Johnston interview. See also Book 17, 147, Edgecombe County Deeds, Tarboro. Susanna and Wright Edmondson's son, Rufus Edmondson, was born in 1818 according to the 1860 census, so it seems likely that the couple was married prior to this date.

⁴ See Blake Little to Wright Edmondson, 1825, Book 18, 367, Peter Knight to Wright Edmondson, 1825, Book 18, 369, Stephen Felton to Wright Edmondson, 1829, Book 19, 446, James B. Woodard to Wright Edmondson, 1832, Book 20, 300, and Ephraim Daniel to Wright Edmondson, Book 21, 377, Edgecombe County Deeds, Tarboro.

⁵ Tarborough Press (Tarboro), December 26, 1835.

⁶ Wilson Daily Times (Wilson), February 12, 1960.

⁷ These children are listed in Susanna (in the will called Susan) Edmondson's will, Book 2, 86, made May 28, 1865 and proved March 5, 1872.

⁸ Ninth Census of the United States: 1870, Wilson County, North Carolina.

⁹ Susan Edmondson Will, Book 2, 86, proved March 5, 1872.

¹⁰ Eighth Census of the United States: 1860, Wilson County, North Carolina, hereinafter cited as 1860 Census.

¹¹ 1860 Census.

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- ¹² Rufus Edmondson to Zillah, Penelope and Susan Edmondson, April 20, 1861, Book 1, 867, Wilson County Deeds, Wilson.
- ¹³ Garry Edmondson to Zillah, Penelope and Susan Edmondson, April 20, 1861, Deed Book 1, 867, Wilson County Deeds, Wilson.
- ¹⁴ Elizabeth Petway to Zillah, Penelope and Susan W. Edmondson and William and Sarah Quarles, 1861, Book 1, 742, Wilson County Deeds, Wilson.
- ¹⁵ Sarah Quarles to Zillah Edmondson, September 25, 1869, Book 3, 309 & 313, Wilson County Deeds, Wilson.
- ¹⁶ Penelope Edmondson to Zillah Edmondson, Susan Brewer and Sallie Quarles, September 25, 1869, Book 3, 308, 309, 313 & 314, Wilson County Deeds, Wilson.
- ¹⁷ Zillah Edmondson Will, Book 3, 150, proved August 6, 1895, Wilson County hereinafter cited as Zillah Edmondson Will.
- ¹⁸ Zillah Edmondson Will.
- ¹⁹ James P. Edmundson and wife, F. S. H. Edmundson, Martha Saunders and Mrs. Susan Brewer to Warren Woodard, January 13, 1896, Book 50, 406, Wilson County Deeds, Wilson.
- ²⁰ Johnston interview.
- ²¹ Ninth Census of the United States: 1870, Wilson County, North Carolina, hereinafter cited as 1870 Census.
- ²² 1870 Census.
- ²³ In the May 20, 1866 partition of his father-in-law's land Woodard received 145-1/2 acres of land in Wilson (Book 2, 477, Wilson County Deeds, Wilson). According to Gray's New Map of Wilson by Jacob Chace of Philadelphia, 1882, Warren Woodard was living in Wilson on his father-in-law's land by 1882.
- ²⁴ Warren Woodard Will, Book 3, 473, proved February 9, 1903, Wilson County, hereinafter cited as Warren Woodard Will.
- ²⁵ Warren Woodard Will.
- ²⁶ Wilson City Directory (Richmond: Hill Directory Company, 1913).
- ²⁷ Walter F. Woodard Will, Book 7, 92, proved May 19, 1923, Wilson County.
- ²⁸ Wilson Daily Times (Wilson), February 12, 1960.

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29 Wilson Daily Times (Wilson), February 12, 1960.

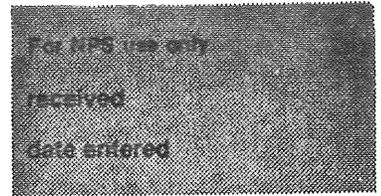
30 Thomas H. Woodard Will, Book 13, 295, proved September 12, 1966,
Wilson County.

ADDENDUM

The property which remains associated with the Edmondson-Woodard House is part of a tract of 1400 acres originally accumulated by Wright Edmondson from 1820 to 1835. Edmondson built the house which is being nominated. The original plantation has been divided and only 321 acres remain with the house today. The land has continued to be farmed since the 1820s, and very likely was farmed when Edmondson acquired it in the early nineteenth century.

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10 - BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The property being nominated with the Edmondson-Woodard House is a 321-acre tract which has been associated with the house since its construction about 1830. Edmondson began acquiring property in 1820, and by 1835 owned 1400 acres on which he built his plantation house. The property is still an active farm.

13 - PHOTOGRAPHS

The Edmondson-Woodard House was initially photographed during the 1980 survey of Wilson County. The site was revisited in 1985 to determine its present condition. The house is still occupied, and well-maintained. The 1980 photographs depict the 1985 condition of the property.

#12 Edmondson-Woodard
House
Stantonsburg vicinity
Wilson County planimetric
map # 332-1-4
Scale 1" = 400'

2
27 Ac.
(67.88 Ac.)
(P. B. 10-114)

1
27 Ac.

3
22 + Ac.

4
321 Ac.

9
47 Ac.

1
13 Ac.

2
4.8 Ac.

Sanders
Church

GARDNERS TWP.
SARATOGA TWP.

GARDNERS TWP.
STANTONSBURG TWP.

TOLEDO SWAMP

SWAMP

House

TANKS

(1542)

