United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



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

1. Name

historic Winston	Wilkinson House		
and/or common			
2. Location /	1 1/ hikerta on		
	1 <i>5</i> Highway 567		not for publication
city, town Liberty	_x_ vicinity of	congressional district	Fourth
state Mississippi	code 28 county	Amite	code 5
3. Classificatio	n		
Category Ownership district public building(s) private structure both site Public Acquisit object in process being considered	<u> </u>	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Owner of Pro	perty		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
name Mr. Geor street & number P. O. Bo	ge Jenne ox 496		
city, town Baton Ro			70821
5. Location of I	egal Descripti	on	
courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Office of the Chancer Main Street	y Clerk, Amite Coun	ty Courthouse
street & number			
city, town	Liberty	state	Mississippi
6. Representat	ion in Existing	<u>Surveys</u>	
title Statewide Survey of	Historic Sites has this p r	operty been determined ele	egible? yes no
date 1975		federal stat	e county local
depository for survey records Mi	ssissippi Department of		
city, town Jackson		state	

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
excellent	deteriorated	<u>x</u> unaltered	<u> </u>	site
good	ruins	altered	moved	date
<u> </u>	unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Winston Wilkinson House faces east on Highway 567 on the southwest corner of the intersection at Busy Corner Road, approximately six miles north of Liberty, the seat of Amite County, Mississippi. Evidence of early landscape around the house includes stands of several varieties of oak, camellia, and magnolia (now overgrown with brush and tall grass). Evidence of an old kiln used to fire the brick during construction of the house exists approximately one hundred feet southwest of the house.

The two-story five-by-three-bay brick residence is supported by the four one-foot-thick exterior walls as well as eight-inch-thick load-bearing interior partitions. The continuous brick foundation wall is punctuated by alternating square ventilators and a square cast-iron entrance door on each elevation. A giant-order Roman Doric portico (minus capitals) is centered on the front (east) facade, with two stuccoed brick columns supporting a diminutive boxed cornice and hip roof. It is probable that the hip roof was rebuilt in the latter part of the nineteenth century, causing the removal of column capitals. Gable ends on the side (north and south) elevations feature stepped and raised parapets balanced by paired interiorend chimneys with a semicircular attic ventilator centered below the parapet of each. A small shed-roof frame porch (constructed in ca. 1930) is situated along the central bay on the first floor of the south elevation, providing an interior access. The existence here of an earlier door stoop and beam seats along the exterior wall indicates the former presence of a more substantial gallery or porte cochere. The fenestration throughout consists of doublehung six-over-six-light sash, with central frontispiece entrances on the first and second floors of both front and rear elevations. The wider first-floor double-leaf entrance on the front facade is enriched with a full entablature and a denticulated cornice. Ghosting along the sides of the entrance indicate the former presence of wood pilaster strips.

Beam seats around the first and second floor entrance doors on the rear (west) elevation are evidence of a former portico. According to local tradition a frame structure (no longer extant) used as a kitchen was also located at the rear of the house. Approximately fifty years ago the structure was moved west of the house and converted into a residence (Truly Whittington, local historian. Interviewed by Jack A. Gold, research consultant, at Liberty, Miss., Dec. 8, 1979). During the 1940s a makeshift water tower was constructed along the southwest side of the rear elevation (to be removed during the present restoration of the property).

The interior of the Winston Wilkinson House consists of the typical center hall plan, two rooms deep. Practically all original millwork detail is intact, with the exception of one (second floor, northeast room) mantelpiece which dates ca. 1900. All walls are finished with two-piece baseboard and heavy chair rail. All mantelpieces consist of flat-faced pilasters supporting a simple entablature and shelf. Windows have simple architraves with molded backbands. Heavy wood-and-plaster ceiling cornices are featured in the first floor rooms, and in the northeast room on the second floor.

8. Significance



Specific dates

Builder/Architect James Ray Wilson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Winston Wilkinson House combines Adamesque and Greek Revival stylistic influences to produce an ambitious and strongly stated vernacular design for a country house. Retaining most of its original landscape, and exterior and interior building finish, the property retains a high degree of architectural integrity. Constructed ca. 1848 for landowner Winston Wilkinson by local master craftsman James Ray Wilson, the property has historical and associational significance related to mid-nineteenth century Amite County.

Winston Wilkinson, a local plantation owner, purchased the place in 1847, and soon after constructed his residence here (Amite Co., Miss., Deed Book 7:253). He contracted with James Ray Wilson (later a captain in the 39th Infantry, C.S.A.) to design and build the house. Wilson is also credited with the design and construction of the Talbert-Cassels House (1851-1853) near Gloster (Amite County) which follows the design of the Winston Wilkinson House.

The architectural significance of the property is derived from the interpretation by the master craftsman of two separate and academically inspired styles--the Adamesque and the Greek Revival. The application of Adamesque design features such as the rectangular and symmetrical elevations, the stepped-and-raised side-wall parapets, and the fenestration (particularly the semicircular attic ventilators), contrasts with the thick Greek Revival columns on the exterior portico, and heavy ceiling cornices on the interior. Wilson's unique adaptation of these formal building elements created clear and strikingly similar identities for both the Winston Wilkinson House and the Talbert-Cassels House.

Perhaps the most curious element apparent in Wilson's design and construction technique for the Winston Wilkinson House is the portico on the front (east) facade. While the columns exhibit a high degree of sophistication with regard to proper entasis and Doric bases, their lack of capitals and the framing of the roof entablature at the center line of each column rather than at the neck of each indicates either a lack of interest on the part of Wilson to conceive a proper and complete portico, or the removal of the capitals later in the nineteenth century to accommodate a new portico roof. Restoration plans for the Winston Wilkinson House have been formulated for the present owner by architect William Lampton Gill of Jackson, and work will begin in Spring, 1980.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Amite Co., Miss. Chancery Clerk. Deed Book 7. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. Microfilm.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. "Confederate Archives Library. Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from Miss." Microfilm.

Geographical Data 10.

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Acreage of nominated property <u>three acres</u> Quadrangle name <u>Bude</u> UMT References	ACREAGE NOT VERIFICATION Scale 1:62500	
A 15 704640 3461650 Zone Easting Northing	B Zone Easting Northing	
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Verbal boundary description and justification Three acre tract of land described as the northwest cormer of that certain 10 acre tract of land in the NW 1/4 of NW 1/4 Section 31, Township 4 North, Range 4 East, conveyed to Ben W. Lauchly by Mrs. A. Smith on October 18, 1940, as recorded in Conveyance Book 90, page 184.

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

state	(ode	county		code
state		code	county		code
11. For	m Preparec	By			
name/title	Jack A. Gold				
organization	Research Consulta	ant		date	January, 1980
street & number	811 Fairview Stre	eet		telephone	601/353-2513
city or town	Jackson			state	Mississippi
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR HCRS	USE ONLY
RECEIVED	FEB 2 5 1980
DATE ENTE	RED.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. Statewide Survey of Historic Sites. Amite County. Winston Wilkinson House.
- United States Works Progress Administration. Amite County, Miss. Source Material for Mississippi History. Preliminary Manuscripts. Compiled by Statewide Research Project, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.
- Whittington, Truly, local historian. Interviewed by Jack A. Gold, research consultant, at Liberty, Miss., December 8, 1979.

