

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Wilson Residential Historic District
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 4737, 4785, 4877 and 5101 U.S. Highway 61 not for publication N/A
city or town Wilson vicinity N/A
state Arkansas code AR county Mississippi code 093 zip code 72395

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 6-15-16
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
 - determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
 - determined not eligible for the National Register
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other,
(explain:)

[Signature] Eq 9-21-2016
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
19	7	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
20	7	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter %N/A+if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

AGRICULTURAL: Agricultural Field

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

AGRICULTURAL: Agricultural Field

EDUCATION: School

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:
Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, Neo-classical
Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete, Brick,

walls Wood: Weatherboard, Brick

roof Stone: Slate, Asphalt, Metal: Tin

other _____

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

DESCRIPTION

The Wilson Residential Historic District is located approximately one-half mile northeast of the central commercial and industrial area of Wilson, Arkansas (2016 est. pop 903). Wilson is located in the northeastern quadrant of the state approximately eleven miles south of Osceola, the county seat of Mississippi County, and forty-four miles from Memphis, Tennessee. Wilson was founded as a company town by agricultural entrepreneur Robert Edward Lee Wilson (1865-1933), known as Lee. The Wilson Residential Historic District contains four primary dwellings associated with the Wilson Company's prominent owners and managers. The oldest dwelling in the district is the ornate Tudor Revival style dwelling built in 1925 by Robert E. Lee (öRoyö) Wilson, Jr., (1889-1958). Roy Wilson was the son of Robert E. Lee (öLeeö) Wilson who founded the company town in the 1880s. To the north of this property a Neo-classical style dwelling was built in 1933 by Wilson Company manager James (öJimö) Henry Crain (1888-1962). The Crain family constructed two additional dwellings in the Colonial Revival style in 1945 and 1954. These dwellings constitute a small but significant grouping of homes associated with the Wilson Company of the 20th century.

The dwellings in the district are all located on U.S. Highway 61 and are accessed by long, tree-lined driveways. The open space between the dwellings and the highway remains intact for the three Crain family houses but the approaches to the Roy Wilson Jr. House now has several buildings constructed in front of the house for classrooms as part of its recent rehabilitation into the Delta School. The three Crain family houses continue to be used as dwellings by descendants of Jim and John Crain.

The homes are unique to Wilson as they possess distinctive architectural styles and are significantly larger than the surrounding homes, exhibiting the wealth of the Wilson and Crain families. Each of the homes in the district is located on a large tract that retains the original agricultural setting. The buildings are between two tenths of a mile and one-half mile apart along U.S. Highway 61. A large agricultural field is located between the Robert E. Lee Wilson, Jr., House and the Jim Crain House. Various ancillary buildings have been constructed around the homes in the Wilson Residential Historic District including garages, servants' quarters, stables, pool houses, green houses, and changing rooms.

Built in 1925, the Robert E. Lee (öRoyö) Wilson, Jr., House is the oldest of the four homes. This dwelling is located at 5101 U.S. Highway 61, approximately one-half mile northeast of the public square. It was designed in the Tudor Revival style by Memphis architect George Mahan, Jr. The dwelling features a projected gable entry bay with large gable returns. Of stretcher-bond brick construction, the two-story building retains much of its original fabric including diamond-light casement windows and original slate shingles on the roof. The James (öJimö) H. Crain House 1 at 4877 U.S. Highway 61 was built in 1933 in the Neo-classical style with a two-story Doric portico on the main elevation. The remaining two dwellings, the James (öJimö) H. Crain House 2 at 4787 U.S. Highway 61, and the John E. Crain House at 4785 U.S. Highway 61, were built in the Colonial Revival Style. Both of these properties exhibit traditional Colonial Revival details including brick exteriors, columned porticoes, and fanlight transoms. The Tudor and Colonial Revival styles are prominent themes in this district; the scale of the structures sets them apart from the surrounding residences. Each of the buildings in the Wilson Residential Historic District possesses a high degree of integrity, retaining most of the original architectural fabric, and three of the four structures remain in use as dwellings.

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INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTIONS

The four primary properties in the inventory are organized geographically, from south to north. Entries list the address of the property, approximate date of construction, and associated secondary resources.

Key:

CB = Contributing Building

NCB = Non-contributing Building

CS = Contributing Structure

NCS = Non-contributing structure

ca. = Circa

1. Robert E. Lee ("Roy") Wilson, Jr., House, 5101 U.S. Highway 61, 1925 (CB)

Built in 1925, the Robert E. Lee (õRoyõ) Wilson, Jr., House is located at 5101 Highway 61. The house faces Highway 61 to the southeast. The two-story building was constructed in the Tudor Revival style and has an exterior of stretcher bond brick, a concrete foundation, and a hipped roof of original slate shingles. The floor plan is rectangular with two interior, brick chimneys located in each wing and an exterior wall chimney on the main (southeast) façade. All the chimneys retain their original copper caps (*See Photos 1, 8, 9, and 10*).

On the main (southeast) façade, the main entrance is set within a projected gable entry bay with large gable returns. The entrance has a large arched twelve-panel door with a concrete surround of label molding, quoins, and acorn details at the label stops. Windows on this elevation are paired and diamond-light windows are positioned to the north of the main entrance. The remaining windows are original fifteen-light casement design with brick sills. A secondary entrance has been added to the main façade with a thirty-six-light, three-panel door that is shaded by a copper pent roof. The east wing of the main façade has three shed-wall dormers with original paired fifteen-light casement windows.

On the northeast elevation of the building are two secondary entrances, one with a vertical-board door set within a Tudor arch and a second vertical-board door with a wooden lintel. A pair of single-light windows is offset at the second level with a wooden lintel above and an arched vent is located in the gable field. On the northeast elevation of the central portion of the house, a rectangular section of the exterior is decorated with an indented brick cross pattern. A single hipped-roof dormer is located on the northeast elevation with four, single-light casement windows.

On the rear (northwest) elevation of the east wing there are two shed-wall dormers with paired fifteen-light casement windows, a retrofitted set of paired eight-light windows, and a replacement metal garage door. Extending from the northwest elevation of the building is an enclosed second story sunroom with original twelve-light casement windows arranged in a two-over-two pattern. The sunroom is located over a first floor drive-through bay and is supported by pillars of concrete and stone. The first floor exterior on the rear elevation is covered by concrete and stone veneer. The windows on the second floor of the northeast elevation are single-light paired. Single-light casement windows are located on the first floor with concrete surrounds and label molding. Two eyebrow dormers with six-light windows are centrally located at the roofline of the rear elevation.

The interior of the dwelling was rehabilitated in 2015 for use as a school but the majority of the original floor plan and detailing remains intact. The interior fireplace mantels, wall paneling, doors and other features were purchased in England by Roy Wilson and shipped up the Mississippi River. The exact provenance of these interior features is

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unknown but the Wilson family believes they came from an 18th century dwelling. The first floor features a main hall which has a slate floor, plaster and stone veneer walls and a plaster ceiling. The main hall features a curved stone staircase with a wrought iron railing. On one side of the hall is the living room which displays an ornate marble fireplace and surround, wood floor, plaster ceilings and wood paneled walls. On the opposite side of the main hall is the dining room which has a carved wood mantel, wood floor, plaster walls and a wood-beamed ceiling. Connecting the hall to the dining room are paired paneled doors set within a Tudor arch. Also on the first floor is a library with a wood mantel, paneled wood walls, built-in bookcases and a plaster ceiling.

The second floor has a series of bedrooms connected by a central hallway. These rooms have wood floors, plaster walls and ceilings and original wood paneled doors. The master bedroom features paneled wood walls and has an attached sunroom with original casement windows. The bathrooms in the dwelling have original fixtures and tile floors as well as fixtures and tile walls added in the 1950s. The basement level has concrete floors and is subdivided into various servant's quarters and utility rooms.

At the rear and in front of the building are a series of one-story classrooms, greenhouses and other support buildings constructed in 2015-2016 as part of the Delta School. These include the following:

1. At the rear of the building is a one-story brick utility building. This building has a hipped roof of wood shingles and a solid wood door. (NCB)
2. A one-story frame classroom building with a standing-seam hipped roof, large eaves and a hipped louvered vent at the roofline. The building has fixed twelve-light windows and paired six-light doors. (NCB)
3. A one-story frame classroom building with a standing-seam hipped roof, large eaves and a hipped louvered vent at the roofline. The building has fixed twelve-light windows and paired six-light doors. (NCB)
4. A greenhouse with gable roof of glass panels, glass walls and a brick skirt wall foundation. On the east elevation is a gabled concrete block and brick wall. (NCB)
5. A greenhouse with gable roof of glass panels, glass walls and a brick skirt wall foundation. On the west elevation is a gabled concrete block and brick wall. (NCB)
6. A one-story storage shed of concrete block with a hipped roof of wood shingles, stucco exterior and glass and metal door. (NCB)
7. A one-story storage shed of concrete block with a hipped roof of wood shingles, stucco exterior and glass and metal door. (NCB)

2. James H. ("Jim") Crain House 1, 4877 U.S. Highway 61, D. 1933 (CB)

The James H. ("Jim") Crain House 1, located at 4877 U.S. Highway 61 was constructed in 1933. (See Photos 11-13.) The two-story frame dwelling faces Highway 61 to the southeast and was constructed in the Neo-Classical Revival style with a concrete foundation, an exterior of five-course common bond brick, and a gable roof of asphalt shingles. The house is rectangular in plan with one-story wings flanking the two-story central section. An enclosed hyphen extends to the north and connects the main house to a one-story garage. A covered walkway extends to the northwest connecting the main house to one-story brick servant's quarters.

On the main (southeast) façade there is a full-height, two-story porch supported by square Doric columns. The main entrance has an eight-panel door flanked by Doric pilasters with dentil molding above. The entrance has diamond light sidelights and a fanlight transom. A small balcony is located centrally above the main entrance at the second floor level

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with a wrought-iron railing and a central fifteen-light wood and glass door. There are three hipped-roof dormers on the main (southeast) façade with fixed twelve-light wood windows. The windows on the first floor of the east elevation are original nine-over-nine wood sash and there are original six-over-six wood sash windows on the second floor both flanked by wood louvered shutters.

An enclosed porch is located on the southwest elevation that was originally a screened porch at the time of construction. This porch has a flat roof with an original balustrade supported by Doric pilasters. The windows on the southwest elevation of the dwelling are six-over-six wood sash with brick sills capped by brick jack arches. A brick, exterior end chimney is located centrally on the southwest elevation as well as a closed gable.

The rear (northwest) elevation has a one-story, three-bay sunroom with brick Doric pilasters dividing each bay. The one-story sunroom has a gable roof of asphalt shingles and weatherboard siding in the gable-field. A set of glass and wood double doors is located centrally on the one-story section, and the windows are arched. Three hipped roof dormers with twelve-light fixed windows are centrally located at the roofline. The windows on the rear elevation are original six-over-six wood sash with brick sills and brick jack arches. The northeast elevation has an enclosed porch with a flat roof, original wooden balustrade, six-over-six wood sash windows flanked by wood louvered shutters at the second level, and a brick, exterior end chimney. A sixty-light fixed bay window flanked by two, twelve-light sidelights and capped by a copper pent roof is located to the south of the enclosed porch.

To the north and west of the dwelling are a series of outbuildings as follows:

1. Servant's Quarters, ca. 1933 (CB)

An attached one-story, brick servant's quarters is located northwest of the dwelling and is connected by a covered walkway. The building has a brick foundation, a stretcher bond brick exterior, and a gable roof of asphalt shingles. The windows are six-over-six wood sash with brick sills. The main entrance is located on the main (north) elevation and has an original nine-light, two-panel glass and wood door. An exterior end, brick chimney is located on the west elevation. A full-width shed-roof porch is located on the main elevation and is supported by square wood Doric motif columns. (*See Photo 17.*)

2. Garage, ca 1933 (CB)

An attached garage is located on the north elevation of the main house. The garage has a brick foundation, a stretcher bond brick exterior, and a gable roof of asphalt shingles. A six-over-six wood sash window is located on the main (east) elevation, and a large garage bay is located on the north elevation.

3. Garage, ca. 1960 (CB)

A ca. 1960 garage is located to the west of the main house. The garage is rectangular in plan with an ell-shaped wing extending east. The garage is constructed of stretcher bond brick with a low-pitched gable roof over the rectangular portion and a slant roof over the wing. Both roof types have asphalt shingles. (*See Photo 19.*)

4. Greenhouse, ca. 1935 (CB)

A one-story rectangular plan, laminated glass and steel frame greenhouse is located to the northwest of the main house. The roof is gabled with rounded eaves. (*See Photo 16.*)

5. Storage Building 1, ca. 1935 (CB)

This is a one-story, rectangular brick storage building with a brick foundation, a stretcher bond brick exterior, and a hipped roof of asphalt shingles. The building has no openings with the exception of a pair of ca. 2000 six-panel metal doors on the main (east) elevation. (*See Photo 14.*)

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6. Storage Building 2, ca. 1935 (CB)

This is a one-story rectangular brick storage building that is identical in style and materials to Storage Building 1 with the exception of the main entry on the east elevation which has a single ca. 2000 six-panel replacement metal door. (See Photo 15.)

7. Stable, ca. 1935 (CB)

To the west of the dwelling is a one-story stable with vertical-board siding and a hipped roof of corrugated metal. On the main (south) façade, two open windows flank a central uncovered door. A wrap-around shed roof porch is supported by square wood posts. (See Photo 22.)

8. Privy, ca. 1935 (CB)

Directly east of the stable, a small wood privy sits between the row of tenant houses and the stable. The privy has a brick foundation covered with corrugated metals, a weatherboard exterior, and a hipped roof of corrugated metal with exposed rafter ends. One open entry is located on the main (south) elevation. (See Photo 23.)

9.-10. Tenant House 1 and 2, ca. 1935 (CB and CB)

Located to the northwest of the main house, Tenant Houses 1 and 2 are connected by a small one-story frame hyphen with a weatherboard exterior. These are one-story frame dwellings with brick foundations covered with corrugated metal, weatherboard siding, and hipped metal roofs. The windows are ca. 1960, two-over-two horizontal light wood sash. A shed roof enclosed porch has been added to the main (south) elevations. The main entrances have six-panel wood doors. (See Photo 25.)

11. Tenant House 3, ca. 1935 (CB)

This is a one-story frame dwelling with a brick foundation covered with corrugated metal sheets, weatherboard siding exterior, and a hipped roof of corrugated metal. The windows are ca. 1960, two-over-two horizontal light wood sash. A shed roof enclosed porch has been added to the main (south) elevation. The main entrance is located on the south elevation and has a six-panel wood door. It has an enclosed frame porch and a central brick flue. (See Photo 24.)

12. Storage Building, ca. 1935 (CB)

A brick storage building is located directly across from the row of tenant houses. The building has a brick foundation, an exterior of common bond brick, and a hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles. The building has no fenestration with the exception of one, six-over-six wood sash window in the recessed entry. An exterior end, brick flue is located on the west elevation. (See Photo 26.)

15. James H. ("Jim") Crain House 2, 4737 U.S. Highway 61, D. 1954 (C)

Jim Crain constructed a second home for himself once his children had families of their own and he moved to this house in 1954, leaving his first home as the residence for his daughter Ruby and son-in-law William Joe Denton. The one-and-one-half-story house faces Highway 61 to the southeast and was constructed in the Colonial Revival style with a concrete foundation, stretcher bond brick exterior, and a gable roof of asphalt shingles. The house is rectangular in plan with a garage wing extending to the southwest. (See Photos 20 and 21.)

On the main (southeast) façade, the main entrance is set within a single-story, gable-roof entry porch with wood siding in the gable field. The porch is supported by wrought iron columns. The main entrance has an original six-panel wood door. Windows on the main (southeast) elevation are original six-over-six wood sash with brick sills flanked by original wood louvered shutters. Two gable roof dormers are centered along the main façade with one-over-one wood sash windows.

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The northeast elevation has two original six-over-six wood sash windows with brick sills. The rear (northwest) elevation has six original six-over-six wood sash windows with brick sills.

16. John E. Crain House, 4785 U.S. Highway 61, D. 1945 (C)

Built for John E. Crain, son of Jim Crain, this dwelling is located at 4785 Highway 61 and was constructed in 1945. The one-and-one-half-story house faces Highway 61 to the southeast and was constructed in the Colonial Revival style with a concrete foundation, an exterior of stretcher bond brick, and a gable roof of asphalt shingles. The house is rectangular in plan with a one-story, lateral ell-wing and garage additions extending to the northwest. (*See Photos 30, 31, and 36.*)

The main (southeast) façade has an elliptical entry bay porch supported by Tuscan columns. The entrance has a two-panel door with a fanlight transom and single-pane sidelights. The windows on the main (southeast) façade are twelve-over-twelve wood sash flanked by paneled wood shutters. At the eave is a dentilled cornice and three gable roof dormers with six-over-six wood sash windows are centered along the main portion of the façade. An exterior wall chimney is located on the southern section of the main façade.

The northeast elevation has a one-story sunroom with large single-pane, metal-frame windows and a gable roof with weatherboard siding in the gable field. A one-story frame wing is on the northeast elevation with a bank of twelve-over-twelve vinyl sash windows. The rear (northwest) elevation of the garage wing has a single six-over-six wood sash window, a central brick flue, and three gable roof dormers with six-over-six sash windows. The rear (northwest) elevation of the main section of the house has an original eight-light, single-panel door with four-light sidelights and a set of glass and wood double doors. The rear elevation of the lateral wing has weatherboard siding and one-over-one vinyl windows.

To the north and west of the dwelling are a series of outbuildings as follows:

1. Gazebo, ca. 1952 (CB)
This gazebo has a brick foundation and a conical roof of asphalt shingles supported by intricate wrought-iron posts. (*See Photo 32.*)
2. Swimming Pool, ca. 1952 (CS)
To the north of the house is a concrete swimming pool built ca. 1952 with an adjacent surround of stone panels.
3. Barbeque House, ca. 1952 (CB)
The barbeque house is located at the north end of the pool. It is a one-story structure with a cast-concrete foundation, vinyl siding exterior, and a shallow-pitched gable roof. An interior, brick chimney is located within the structure as well as a large barbeque grill. A full-width, incised porch is located on the (south) elevation with cast-iron supports. (*See Photo 33.*)
4. Pool House, ca. 1952 (CB)
The pool house is located north of the main house and swimming pool in a round, one-story, brick building. The building has a cast concrete foundation, a stretcher bond brick exterior, and a conical roof of asphalt shingles. The windows are three-light horizontal, aluminum, awning design with brick sills. Sections of the exterior wall have structural glass blocks. (*See Photo 35.*)

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark %* in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark %* in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** moved from its original location.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1925 . 1954

Significant Dates

1925, 1933, 1945, 1954

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Mahan, George, Jr.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The Wilson Residential Historic District is located in the town of Wilson, Arkansas, which developed as a company town founded by agricultural entrepreneur Robert E. Lee (öLeeö) Wilson in 1886. The district contains the homes of the Wilson and Crain families which were involved with the management and operations of the Wilson Company in the 20th century. The Wilson Residential Historic District dates from 1925 when Wilson's son, Robert E. Lee (öRoyö) Wilson, Jr., constructed a Tudor Revival style dwelling north of the commercial district of Wilson. The dwelling was inspired by the Tudor architecture he admired on an extended honeymoon to England and he hired Memphis architect George Mahan, Jr. to design his house. The property in the Wilson Residential Historic District had been owned by the Wilson Company since the company's founding in 1886. Unlike the smaller in-town parcels of workers' housing and the commercial and industrial sections, the tracts of the owners and managers' homes were not platted with the town. These large land tracts were distinctly separated from the town of Wilson. Most workers resided in more modest structures in the city limits of the company town. Roy Wilson constructed his home northeast of the Wilson town center in 1925, and a row of homes built by manager James H. (öJimö) Crain and his family extended this residential area further north along U.S. Highway 61. Jim Crain constructed a two-story, Neo-classical style dwelling in 1933 and additional Crain family homes on the tracts extending to the northeast were built in the Colonial Revival style in 1945 and 1954.

The Wilson Residential Historic District is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for its architectural significance as a notable residential development of the early to mid-twentieth century. The district's period of significance extends from 1925, the date of the earliest extant dwelling in the district, to 1954 when the second house was built by Jim Crain. The district contains four main residential properties and their collective twenty-two associated outbuildings, secondary dwellings, and structures. Of these twenty-six total resources, nineteen would be considered contributing to the character of the district. The district illustrates the lifestyles of the Wilson and Crain families accrued through the success of the Wilson Company. The Tudor Revival, Neo-classical, and Colonial Revival are represented in the district. The appearance of the Wilson Residential Historic District has not been significantly altered over time, and it retains much of its historic character.

The only intrusion in the district is a series of one-story classrooms, greenhouses and other support buildings constructed in front of the Roy Wilson House. This house was repurposed in 2015 to serve as the Delta School, an elementary and middle school which emphasizes sustainable agriculture and innovative learning techniques. These buildings are set well in front of the Roy Wilson House and do not significantly detract from its setting. The Wilson Residential Historic District retains a high degree of integrity in location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling. The majority of their original fabric remains intact, and their designs continue to express the Tudor Revival, Neo-classical, and Colonial Revival styles. The district's location remains a quiet setting away from the town square.

Historical Overview

The Wilson Residential Historic District is located in the town of Wilson, Arkansas. Wilson was founded as a company town by agricultural entrepreneur Robert Edward Lee (öLeeö) Wilson (1865-1933). As a teenaged orphan, Wilson inherited 400 acres in Mississippi County, Arkansas, and expanded his holdings into a 40,000+-acre working landscape that included his company town. Harvesting timber, buying up tracts of seemingly barren wasteland, and installing drainage ditches and levees, Wilson transformed the landscape into productive cotton fields. Forging his own New South business model, Wilson capitalized on innovative methods and practices in farming and finances and established a family dynasty that spanned over a century. The town of Wilson was praised as a model of Progressivism, with above average

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amenities for a rural community and numerous civic-minded social clubs. The history of Lee Wilson and his company was profiled in the highly-praised book, *Delta Empire: Lee Wilson and the Transformation of Agriculture in the New South* by Jeannie Whayne. Published in 2011, this provides extensive context for the importance of the Wilson Company in the agricultural history of Arkansas.

Wilson is located in northeastern Arkansas, in Mississippi County, which was established in 1833. The first population census for the county occurred in 1840, when there were 1,410 people (900 white residents and 510 slaves) living in its borders.¹ Among the pioneers arriving in this decade was Josiah Wilson, accompanied by his wife and two daughters. In 1846, Wilson laid claim to 160 acres of cypress forest.² Residents living in the swampy delta contended with mosquito-transmitted disease, which claimed the life of Josiah Wilson's first wife. Over the next decade, cotton prices soared, and the delta lands west of the Mississippi River continued to draw new settlers. Wilson expanded his land holdings by 1850 to 900 acres, on which he raised food crops. Over the next decade, Wilson grew his farming operation to 2,300 acres and began growing cotton. During the same period, Wilson also increased his number of slaves from twenty-one to forty. By 1860, the county's population was 3,898, and there were 17,584 acres of land in cultivation.³

With the Civil War, Mississippi County's agriculture declined, as did the wealth of its farmers. During the 1860s, Josiah Wilson moved to Memphis with his second wife Martha, placing his son-in-law Napoleon Lafont in charge of operations at his Arkansas plantation. Josiah and Martha Wilson had a son in 1865 they named Robert Edward Lee Wilson in honor of the famed Confederate general. Josiah Wilson died in 1870 without a will in place, leaving his heirs to divide his assets. Martha Wilson died in Memphis's Yellow Fever epidemic in 1878 and at age thirteen Lee was sent to live with his father's brother William in Covington, Tennessee. At age fifteen Lee Wilson left school and moved back to Arkansas to work on the 400 acres of timberland he inherited from his father.

Known as "Lee" throughout his life, Wilson proved a natural competence for business and assisted his siblings, half-siblings, their spouses and children in business and legal matters. As Wilson's relatives succumbed to poor health, and their finances withered from poor management, he succeeded in resolving legal and business problems on their behalf. Wilson apparently also enjoyed superior health; as his relatives died from various ailments, he purchased the parcels that ultimately re-consolidated his father's 2,300-acre estate. Additionally, Wilson bought thousands of acres adjacent to his familial tracts. During this period, Wilson married Elizabeth Beall, for whom he built a 3,000-square foot home, and went into business with her father as Wilson and Beall Lumber Company.⁴ Beall operated Wilson's sawmill, while Wilson himself built six miles of roads from the river to logging camps, establishing a successful and profitable partnership.⁵ Wilson also assumed a patriarchal role among his surviving family members, bringing them and their future spouses into his business and household in some instances. Workers and family settled a small village, named Wilson, in 1886.

¹ "Mississippi County," at *Arkansas Encyclopedia of History and Culture* web page accessed January 8, 2015 <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=791>.

² Eldon. Fairley, "The Wilson Family," In *The Delta Historical Review* (Blytheville, AR: Mississippi County Historical and Genealogical Society, Spring, 1998), 3.

³ Jeannie Whayne, *Delta Empire: Lee Wilson and the Transformation of Agriculture in the New South*, (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2011), 21, 25-7.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 45-47.

⁵ Goodspeed Publishing Company, *Biological and Historical Memoirs of Northeast Arkansas*, (Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1889), 509.

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Wilson was equally adept in farming and in social and business settings. As his sawmill produced 14,000 board feet per day by 1889, he conducted business with lumber dealers and manufacturers in the metropolises of Chicago and St. Louis.⁶ In local business, Wilson regularly attended levee board meetings, advocating flood control systems to combat the constant challenges of his flood-prone landscape. Wilson cleared his timber lands for cultivation in cotton which became one of his main enterprises. Also, in this period of Northern business influx in the South, Wilson remained dedicated to building his empire, maintaining ownership and management of his business operations while courting, but not selling out to, Northern capital.⁷

As Wilson bought and cleared timber lands for farming, he planted three crops: half his tillable land was put into cultivation for cotton, his cash crop. The remaining fields were equally divided for the growing of alfalfa and corn, to feed his work mules.⁸ After 1880, the productive landscape of eastern Arkansas attracted labor from the Deep South. Wilson hired black and white workers in his sawmill, camps, and fields. During this period Wilson employed one hundred workers in his cotton fields and thirty men in his lumber mill.⁹ He built tenant houses, advancing costs to workers through his company store. Unlike many company towns of the period, the town of Wilson enjoyed an above-average standard of living. With the exception of railroad employees and the postmaster, all residents enjoyed access to company doctors for just \$1.25 per year.¹⁰

In 1905, Wilson incorporated his timber and agricultural enterprise as Lee Wilson and Company. During the early twentieth century, Wilson adopted progressive-era strategies, including the division of his vast land holdings into smaller plantations efficiently overseen by individual managers who reported to a general manager. The spatial organization of the town of Wilson also demonstrated efficient planning: workers' houses surrounded the company's administrative buildings in the commercial district on the west side of the rail line and Main Street (US Highway 61); industrial and agricultural buildings were located on the east side of the railroad and highway; at the north end of the public/commercial district the Wilson Community Club House (NR listed June 2, 2015) was built in 1906 to serve the community's social and civic needs.¹¹ The Club House also hosted business meetings of the Wilson Company, and its location at the edge of town represented a dividing line between the business and personal lives of company bosses.

In the early 1900s Lee Wilson built a Colonial Revival-style dwelling on a large tract across Union Avenue (now Lake Drive), from the Club House. This dwelling was altered extensively in the late 20th century and no longer retains integrity of its original design. To the north of Lee Wilson's home, additional dwellings were built by his son, Robert E. Lee (Roy) Wilson Jr., and company manager James H. (Jim) Crain. These houses were sited on large parcels facing and visible from the main highway, though with a deep set back. Their scale and setting were a marked contrast to the modest workers' dwellings in the town and defined the social status of the Wilson and Crain families.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ Whayne, 48.

⁸ R.E.L. Wilson III, Oral Histories, "Founding of Wilson, Arkansas, and Wilson's Three Crop Formula," accessed October 23, 2014, at <http://libinfo.uark.edu/SpecialCollections/ardiglib/leewilson/av.html>

⁹ Goodspeed, 509.

¹⁰ University of Arkansas Libraries Special Collections staff, "Life in Wilson, Lee Wilson & Company Archives," accessed October 23, 2014, at <http://libinfo.uark.edu/SpecialCollections/ardiglib/leewilson/default.asp>

¹¹ Katherine Cullom, "A History of the Wilson Club House and Cooperative Club," in *The Delta Historical Review*, (Blytheville, AR: Mississippi County Historical and Genealogical Society, Summer 1993), 1.

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Roy Wilson returned to the town of Wilson after graduating Yale in 1912 to work in the family business. He served as vice-president and general manager, but held little interest in managing his father's company and holdings. Roy Wilson pursued the life of a country gentleman, fostering his interests in hunting and playing polo. He married Natalie Armstrong in 1922, and the newlyweds honeymooned in Europe. Enamored of the architecture they encountered in England, the couple constructed a Tudor Revival style mansion in 1925 on a large parcel northeast of Lee Wilson's house.¹² This dwelling was designed by prominent Memphis architect George Mahan, Jr. who specialized in designing revival style homes. Roy Wilson suffered from malaria and developed alcoholism that resulted in recurrent absences from business matters. Lee Wilson grew concerned that his son was inadequate to maintain his company, causing him to rely on the other managers, primarily Jim Crain.¹³

Jim Crain was born in Brandon, Mississippi, in 1888. Crain was employed by the Brandon Mercantile Company when he accepted a position at the Idaho Grocery Company in Bassett, Arkansas, about five miles southwest of Wilson. Crain accepted the position and relocated with his wife, Ruby and their young son John in 1911. Upon his arrival, Crain began working in the general offices of the Wilson Company. Within five years, he came to learn the operations of the company working his way through every job in the clerical department. Crain also took a lead role in the refinancing of the county's drainage districts and constructing additional levees to drain lands for crop production. Lee Wilson recognized Crain's impressive managerial skills and in 1917 promoted him to farm superintendent, managing over twelve-thousand employees. Crain continued in this capacity following Lee Wilson's death in 1933. Lee Wilson had shrewdly diversified the company's holdings, relying not only on cotton, corn, wheat, and alfalfa, but also cattle, mercantile establishments, banking, railroads, manufacturing, education, and even the production of electricity. By the time of his death on September 27, 1933, Lee Wilson's estate included over 60,000 acres of farmland, five towns, all their residences, and most of their businesses - all real estate of Lee Wilson and Company. Upon his death, management of the vast company passed to his son, Roy, and Jim Crain.

In 1935, Crain further demonstrated self-initiative, organizing the Delta Products Company, the first cooperative industry in Arkansas. This collective was a success, drawing thirty of the leading planters and processors in the region as active members.¹⁴ Under Crain's management, the Lee Wilson & Company continued as a profitable operation into the mid-twentieth century. In addition to his work with the Wilson Company, Crain was an active member of the community, serving as Chairman of the State Highway Commission. He was also a member of the Memphis and Arkansas Bridge Commission, Chairman of the Wilson School Board, and trustee of the Methodist Hospital in Memphis. He was also active in the Agricultural Council of Arkansas and the Chamber of Commerce. Crain served as trustee in the Wilson Company until 1950, after thirty-eight years of service.

The vast Wilson holdings was home to 10,000 people by 1940 and included other industries such as lumber mills, a box and crate factory, a meat packing plant, an ice plant, a bank, a flour mill, the largest cotton oil mill in the South, and numerous and varied retail stores. The town of Wilson, the largest of the company's five towns, was home to 4,000 residents. Town children were enrolled in progressive schools offering a standard educational curriculum, vocational subjects and athletics. The town streets were graced with family-planted oak and cottonwood trees, rare sights in the

¹² R.E. L. Wilson, Sr., the founder of the company and town bearing his name, had already built a Colonial-Revival-style dwelling on the first parcel north of the town. Local history purports a tale of Mr. Wilson explaining his simple home in contrast to his son's fine mansion, "I didn't have a rich father." The dwelling is extant, but highly altered.

¹³ Wayne, 93.

¹⁴ Bonnie Nichols, editor. "James Henry Crain" *The Delta Historical Review* Published by the Mississippi Historic and Genealogical Society in Spring 1998.

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tree-less plains of cotton fields.¹⁵ Photographer Jack Pavao came to Wilson in 1939 and took dozens of photographs in the community including pictures of the Roy Wilson and Jim Crain Houses. These photographs provide an in-depth look at life and people in Wilson.

By the end of World War II, the Wilson Company's holdings had burgeoned into a multi-faceted plantation comprising 63,000 acres among five towns. Its 57,000 acres of farmland was known as "the largest single tract of intensively cultivated land in the world," according to a promotional government document about Arkansas. Company fields at that time produced as much as three cotton bales per acre, possible only in the rich alluvial soil of the Delta. Additionally, the Wilson Company produced 600,000 bushels of corn and 30,000 bushels of wheat, as well as 40,000 tons of alfalfa, annually. There were 3,000 acres in soybeans and 500 acres in non-commercial truck crops in 1945. The company soon expanded its truck crop operation to reach distant metropolitan markets.¹⁶

The Crain and Wilson families enjoyed wealth and affluence, reflected in the new homes they built north of the town. Their residences are representative of three popular styles built in the United States during the early 20th century; the Tudor Revival, Neo-classical, and Colonial Revival. These styles were popular for both residential and public buildings and were embraced during this period as a shift away from the Victorian era. Architects in America utilized historic designs such as Italian Renaissance, Beaux Arts, and Tudor as homes for their clients. Roy Wilson chose the Tudor Revival style for his dwelling and purchased woodwork and other features in England to display his wealth and social prominence.

The popularity of Neo-classicism grew after the success of the Chicago Columbian Exposition of 1893, which was designed entirely in the style. The Colonial Revival style was part of the broader nationalistic architectural movement that embraced Georgian and Classical designs of the country's roots. Simplicity and efficiency are important principles of the Colonial Revival style. This style was popular during the early 20th century for both residential and public buildings, such as schools and churches. The Neo-classical style was chosen by Jim Crain for his home and the Colonial Revival style was used for his other two family homes.

After Lee Wilson's death, the Wilson family relied on Crain in business matters, giving him a great deal of power in the company. Lee's widow Elizabeth gave power of attorney to Crain rather than her own son, Roy, who often excused himself from responsibilities, such as board of trustee meetings. Roy was content to defer to the ambitious Crain, who used the opportunity to place his own son, John E. Crain, in the role of assistant manager. Crain also appointed his brother-in-law, John R. Enochs, to another lead position in the company.¹⁷ John E. Crain built his own dwelling in 1945 just north of his father's house and he later added a swimming pool and pool house.

Some Wilson family members became disillusioned with the powerful Crains. In March of 1946, the Wilson family filed a petition to remove Jim Crain as a trustee and general manager, arguing that Crain had "built up vast agricultural and business interest of his own during the past few years" and could not "satisfactorily serve our best interests and at the same time oversee his own sizable holding."¹⁸ The Wilson family contended that Crain had mismanaged funds and used

¹⁵ "The Wilson Plantation: Wilson, Arkansas," in *Special Arkansas Bulletin*, July 20, 1945, pages 3-4, available at Lee Wilson and Company Documents, <http://libinfo.uark.edu/SpecialCollections/ardiglib/leewilson/doc/documents.html> accessed October 23, 2014.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*.

¹⁷ Whayne, 194-95, 223.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, 224.

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funds for their own individual and collective advantages. Following the protracted legal matter, Crain announced his resignation from the company, stating he planned to devote more time to his personal business.¹⁹ As a result of Crain's resignation, Roy Wilson's son, Robert (Bob) E. L. Wilson III (1913-1987), took over the administration of the Wilson Company.

Bob Wilson, though originally shying away from the family business, embraced his new role and guided the company through the next several decades, marked by various market challenges. Wilson planted a diversity of crops that could maintain a large year-round labor force. After the death of his father, Roy, in 1958, Bob and his family moved into the 1925 Tudor Revival-style dwelling.²⁰ By that time, Jim Crain had moved out of his 1933 home into a smaller Colonial Revival style dwelling he had constructed in 1954. Crain resided at this house managing his own real estate and farm holdings until his death in 1962. His son, John E. Crain died of a sudden heart attack the following year. The three houses built by Jim and John Crain then passed to their descendants.

Wilson's population steadily declined after 1960, when 1,191 people lived in the community. Mechanization of agriculture, especially the cotton industry, reduced the need for laborers, and former Wilson employees moved elsewhere. By 2010, Wilson had 903 residents. At that time, the Wilson family, heirs to Lee Wilson's dynastic holdings, sold the entirety of their real estate properties, as well as the town itself. Entrepreneur Gaylon Lawrence, Jr., of Nashville, Tennessee, purchased Wilson for an estimated \$110 million. Lawrence and the Lawrence Company is in the process of revitalizing the community as a Delta mecca of arts, culture, and education.²¹

The Wilson Residential Historic District continues to be a cohesive district connected through history, scale, and architectural design. The Roy Wilson House has been rehabilitated to house the Delta School, founded in 2015 as a non-profit, independent, co-educational school. The school is utilizing the Roy Wilson House to provide administrative offices, housing, and classroom space. Four additional classroom buildings have been constructed to the southeast of the main house. Despite these additions, the properties of the district retain a high degree of their architectural integrity and reflect the wealth and prominence of the Wilson and Crain families.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, 226.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, 227.

²¹ Kim Severson, "Arkansas Town's New Owner Has Visions of Its Renaissance," *The New York Times*, January 19, 2014, available at http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/20/us/arkansas-towns-new-owner-has-visions-of-its-renaissance.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_20140120&r=0

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:
University of Arkansas Library

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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Approximately 83 acres

UTM References

(see Figure 1 below)

- A. 15 S 768069 3942346
- B. 15 S 768885 3942130
- C. 15 S 768473 3940587
- D. 15 S 768137 3941065

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the Wilson Residential Historic District is illustrated on the accompanying maps as the dashed line. The district is approximately bounded by U.S. Highway 61 to the east, Latitude 35.588542 N to the north, Longitude - 90.041560 to the west, and Latitude 35.572968 N to the south. The boundary includes four primary dwellings and outbuildings which are described as follows:

- 5101 U.S. Highway 61 - Mississippi County Parcel # 857-00001-000
- 4877 U.S. Highway 61 ó Mississippi County Parcel # 157-01389-000
- 4737 U.S. Highway 61 ó Mississippi County Parcel # 157-01389-000
- 4785 U.S. Highway 61 ó Mississippi County Parcel # 157-01394-000

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundary for the Wilson Residential Historic District includes dwellings associated with the owners and managers of the Wilson Company. The boundary is drawn to include the contiguous parcels containing the dwellings and associated outbuildings. To the west and east of the boundary are agricultural fields, to the south is the parcel containing the altered Robert E. Lee Wilson House, and to the north are post-1966 dwellings.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Philip Thomason, Andra Martens and Brittany McKee
organization Thomason & Associates date May 12, 2016
street & number PO Box 121225 telephone 615/385-4960
city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37212

Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 Or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

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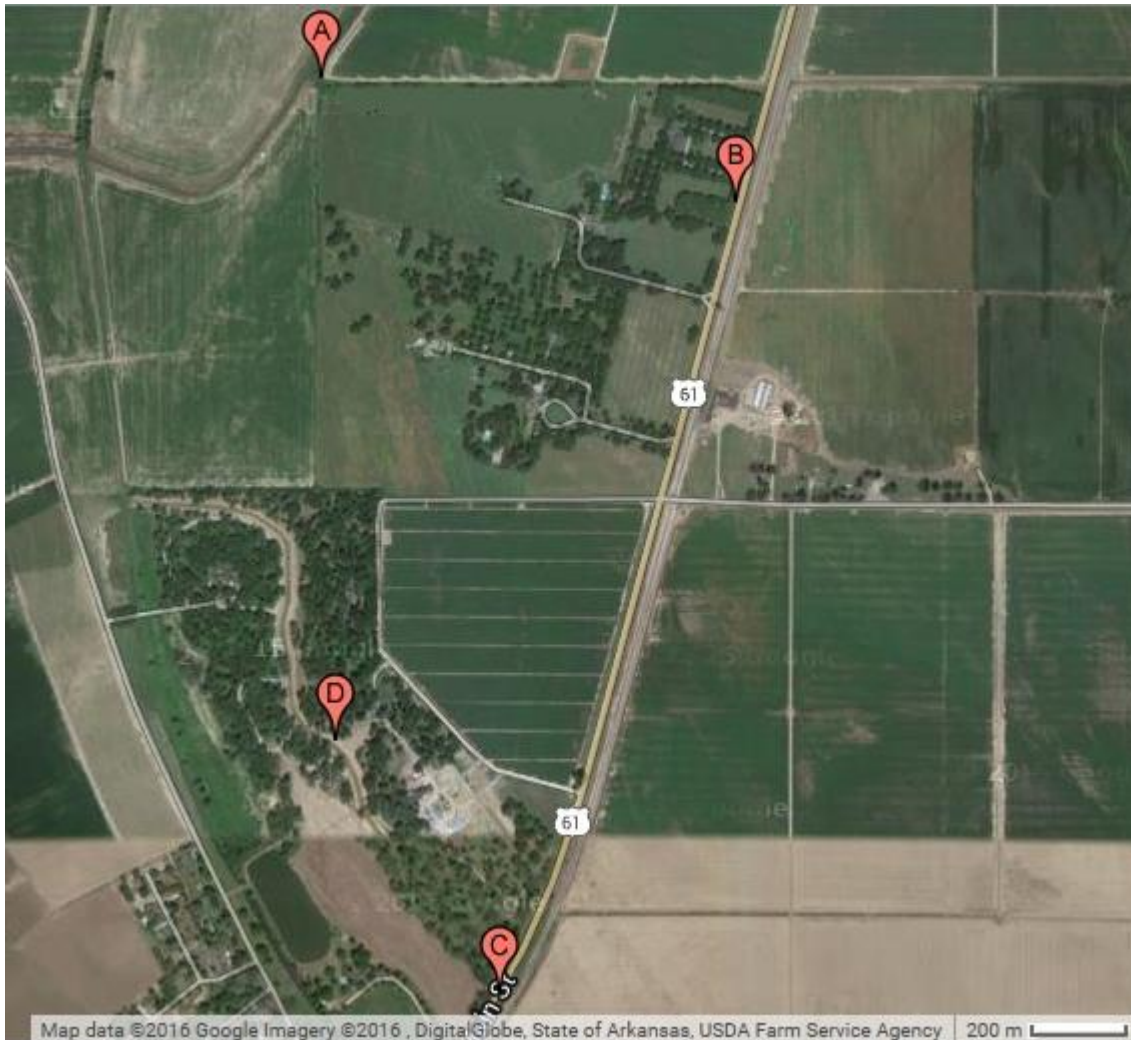


Figure 1: UTM points of the Wilson Residential Historic District.

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Figure 2: Boundary of the Wilson Residential Historic District.

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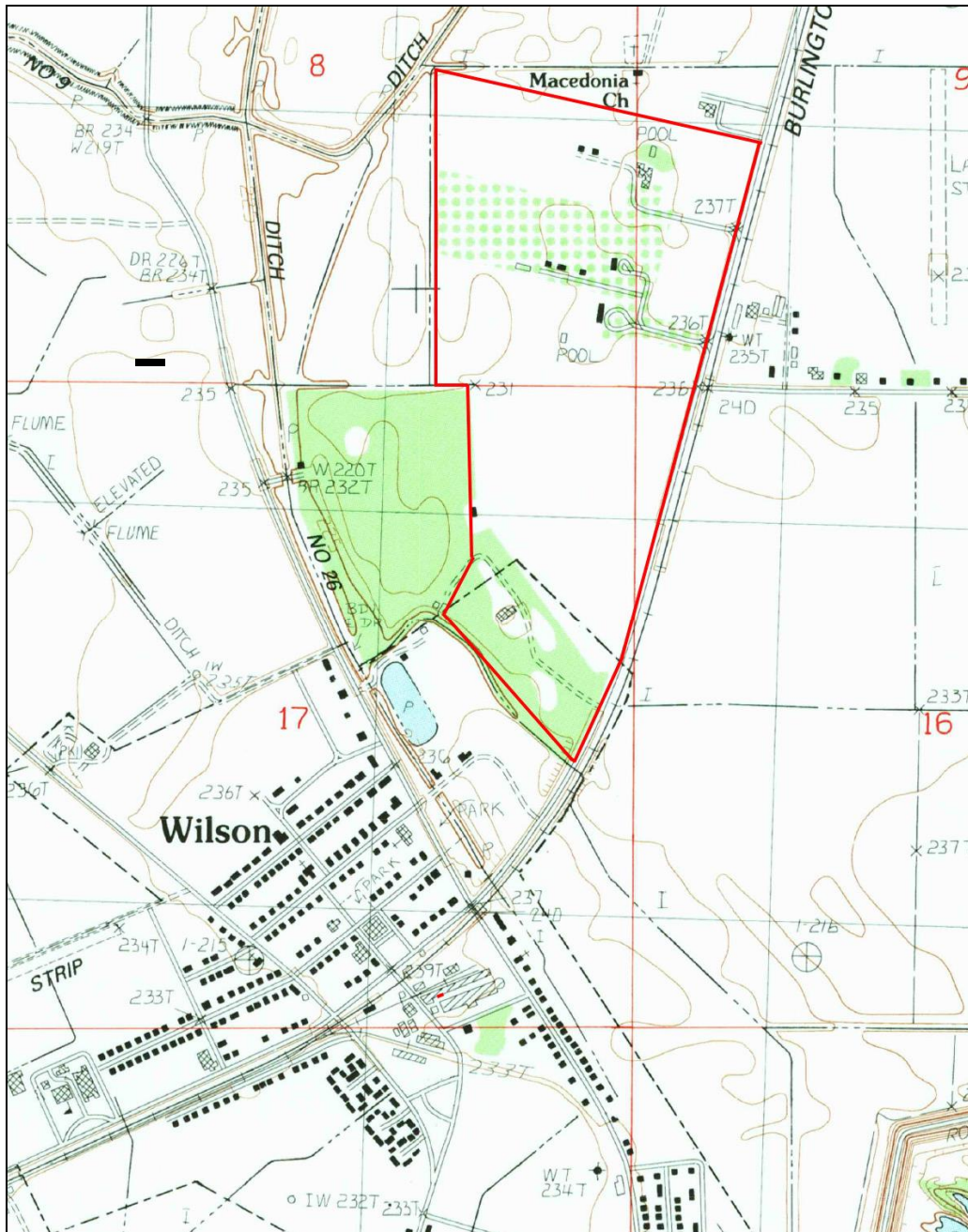


Figure 3: 1983 USGS Quad map of Wilson, Arkansas, showing location of the Wilson Residential Historic District Boundary solid line.

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Photographs

Wilson Residential Historic District

Photos by: Thomason and Associates

Date: October 14, 2015

Photo 1 of 38: 5101 U.S. Highway 61 (Roy Wilson House), view northwest.

Photo 2 of 38: 5101 U.S. Highway 61, interior fireplace and mantel in the Living Room.

Photo 3 of 38: 5101 U.S. Highway 61, interior fireplace and mantel in the Dining Room, view southwest.

Photo 4 of 38: 5101 U.S. Highway 61, overview of Dining Room interior, view southwest.

Photo 5 of 38: 5101 U.S. Highway 61, interior detail of main stair hall, view northwest.

Photo 6 of 38: 5101 U.S. Highway 61, interior overview of Library, view southwest.

Photo 7 of 38: 5101 U.S. Highway 61, interior overview of Master Suite, view northwest.

Photo 8 of 38: 5101 U.S. Highway 61, view north.

Photo 9 of 38: 5101 U.S. Highway 61, view southeast.

Photo 10 of 38: 5101 U.S. Highway 61, view southwest.

Photo 11 of 38: 4877 U.S. Highway 61 (James H. (öJimö) Crain House 1), view southwest.

Photo 12 of 38: 4877 U.S. Highway 61, view southwest.

Photo 13 of 38: 4877 U.S. Highway 61, view northeast.

Photo 14 of 38: 4877 U.S. Highway 61, Storage Building 1, view southeast.

Photo 15 of 38: 4877 U.S. Highway 61, Storage Building 2, view southeast.

Photo 16 of 38: 4877 U.S. Highway 61, Greenhouse, view southeast.

Photo 17 of 38: 4877 U.S. Highway 61, Servants Quarters, view south.

Photo 18 of 38: 4877 U.S. Highway 61, Attached Garage, view southeast

Photo 19 of 38: 4877 U.S. Highway 61, Freestanding Garage, view west.

Photo 20 of 38: 4737 U.S. Highway 61 (James H. (öJimö) Crain House 2), view northwest.

Photo 21 of 38: 4737 U.S. Highway 61, view southeast.

Photo 22 of 38: 4877 U.S. Highway 61, Stable, view north.

Photo 23 of 38: 4877 U.S. Highway 61, Privy, view north.

Photo 24 of 38: 4877 U.S. Highway 61, Tenant House 3, view northeast.

Photo 25 of 38: 4877 U.S. Highway 61, Tenant House 2, view northeast.

Photo 26 of 38: 4877 U.S. Highway 61, Storage Building, view southwest.

Photo 27 of 38: 4877 U.S. Highway 61, row of Tenant Houses and Stable, view northwest.

Photo 28 of 38: 4877 U.S. Highway 61, outbuildings, view south.

Photo 29 of 38: 4737 U.S. Highway 61, main entry, view west.

Photo 30 of 38: 4785 U.S. Highway 61 (John E. Crain House), main elevation, view west.

Photo 31 of 38: 4785 U.S. Highway 61, main elevation, view southwest.

Photo 32 of 38: 4785 U.S. Highway 61. Gazebo, view northwest.

Photo 33 of 38: 4785 U.S. Highway 61, Barbeque House, view northwest.

Photo 34 of 38: 4785 U.S. Highway 61, side elevation, view southwest.

Photo 35 of 38: 4785 U.S. Highway 61, Pool House, view northwest.

Photo 36 of 38: 4785 U.S. Highway 61, view northeast.

Photo 37 of 38: 5101 U.S. Highway 61, Delta School Classrooms

Photo 38 of 38: 5101 U.S. Highway 61, Delta School Greenhouses

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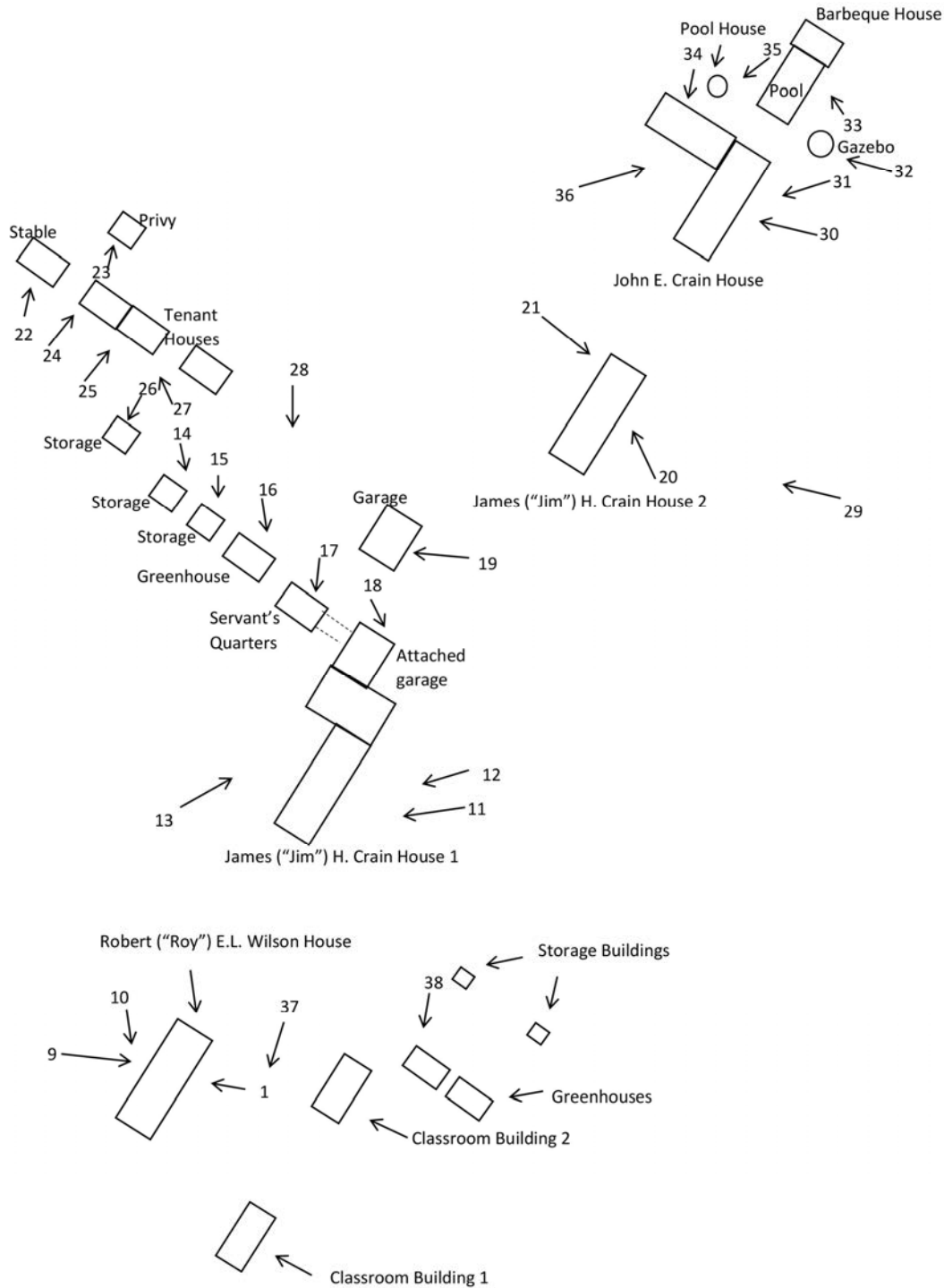


Figure 4: Photo key map for the Wilson Residential Historic District.

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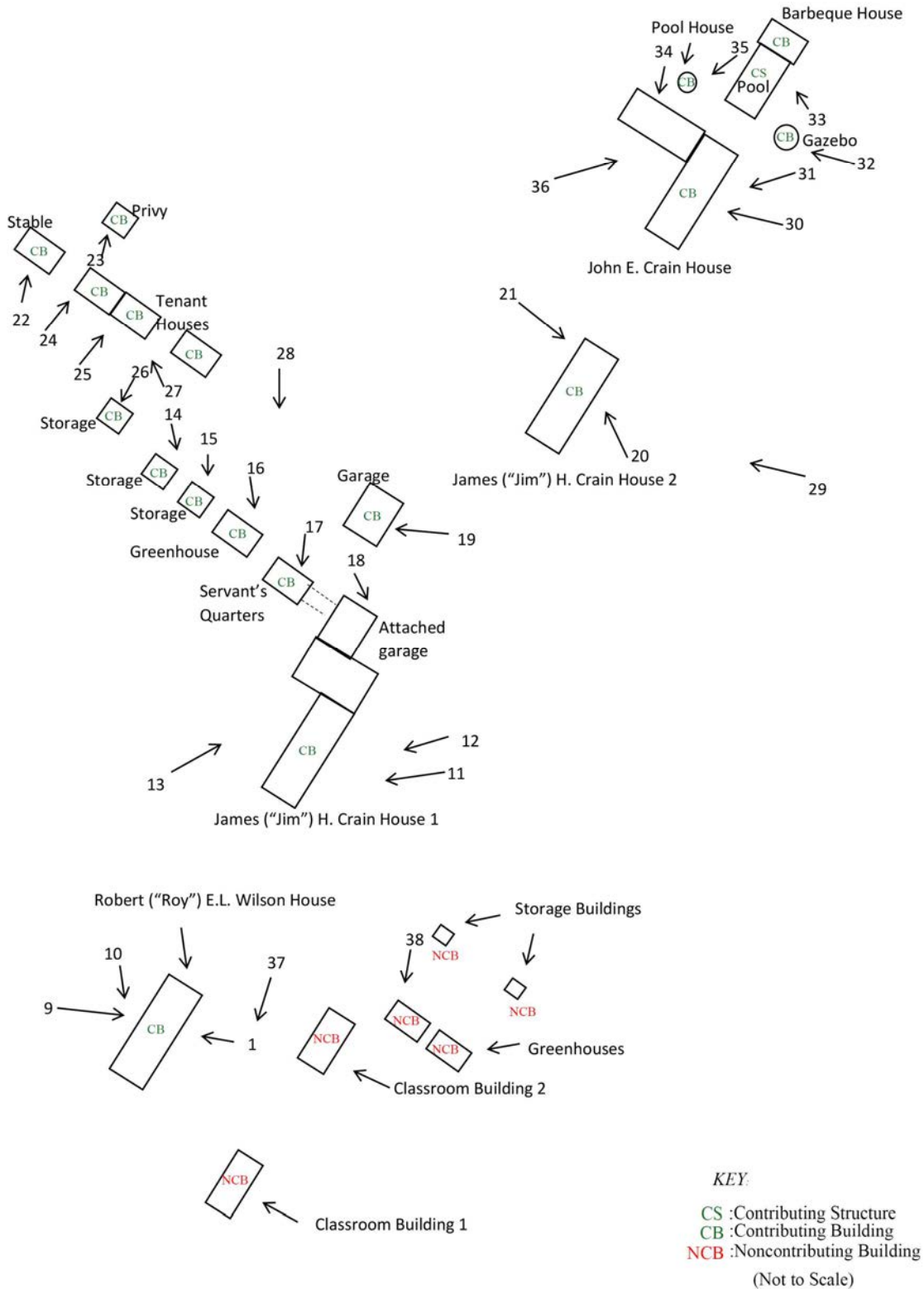


Figure 5: Contributing and Noncontributing Map for the Wilson Residential Historic District.

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Figure 6: Robert (Roy) E. L. Wilson House, 1939 (Photo courtesy Arkansas History Commission)

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Figure 7: Robert (Roy) E. L. Wilson House, Main Hall, 1925 (George Mahan Jr. Collection, photo courtesy of the Memphis Public Library).

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Figure 8: Robert (Roy) E. L. Wilson House, Living Room, 1925 (George Mahan Jr. Collection, photo courtesy of the Memphis Public Library).

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Figure 9: Robert (öRoyö) E. L. Wilson House, Dining Room, 1925 (George Mahan Jr. Collection, photo courtesy of the Memphis Public Library).

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Figure 10: Robert (öRoyö) E. L. Wilson House, Library, 1925 (George Mahan Jr. Collection, photo courtesy of the Memphis Public Library).

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Figure 11: James H. (ōJimō) Crain at his desk (at right) 1939 (Photo courtesy of the Arkansas History Commission).

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Figure 12: James H. (Jim) Crain House 1, 1939 (Photo courtesy of the Arkansas History Commission).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

Wilson Residential Historic District
Name of Property

Mississippi County, AR
County and State

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Multiple
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

#	Resource #	Physical location	Owner	Owner address	C/NC
1		5101 U.S. Highway 61	The Delta School	same	C
2		4785 U.S. Highway 61	Gilbert Palmer	PO Box 158 Wilson, AR	C
3/4		4877 U.S. Highway 61 4737 U.S. Highway 61	William J. Denton III	PO Box 21 Wilson, AR	C













































































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Wilson Residential Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Mississippi

DATE RECEIVED: 8/12/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/02/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/19/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/27/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000652

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 9-21-2016 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

This collection of impressive, Architect designed houses & grounds belonged to the upper management of the company that owned the town of Wilson, its industry, & the surrounding thousands of Acres. Each exemplifies the Period styles of their respective eras

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept C

REVIEWER J. Gabbert

DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____

DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS
HERITAGE

Asa Hutchinson
Governor

Stacy Hurst
Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural
Heritage Commission

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars
Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



ARKANSAS HISTORIC
PRESERVATION PROGRAM



National Historic
Preservation Act 1966-2016



323 Center Street, Suite 1500
Little Rock, AR 72201

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Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

August 3, 2016

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl.
Washington D.C. 20005

RE: Wilson Residential Historic District –Wilson, Mississippi
County, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Loether:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Wilson Residential Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

If you need further information, please call Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Stacy Hurst
State Historic Preservation Officer

SH:rsw

Enclosure