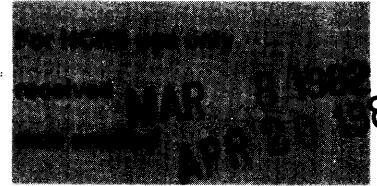


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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



82

1. Name

historic Willie W. Wilson House

and/or common John P. Myers House

2. Location

street & number Cincinnati and Main Streets N/A not for publication

city, town Fort Towson _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 004

state Oklahoma code 40 county Choctaw code 109

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 John P. Myers

street & number P. O. Box 158

city, town Fort Towson _____ vicinity of _____ state Oklahoma

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the County Clerk

street & number Choctaw County Court House

city, town Hugo _____ state Oklahoma

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date August, 1980 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society

city, town Oklahoma City _____ state Oklahoma

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Willie W. Wilson House is a superb example of a combination of architectural elements. Frontally, its temple form is suggestive of Greek revival, while the porches and angled bays on either side of the house are vernacular Victorian adaptations. On its south front are four massive Corinthian columns and a two story portico with open rails surrounding the upper deck. Its foundation consists of brick piers and open brick work. Dentil molding decorates the cornice under the eaves, and the surface of the tympanum is relieved by four windows. The structure has clapboard siding and large, single sash windows. The windows, the open brick work foundation and the second story sleeping porch on the east are adaptations for humid weather.

The interior of the Wilson House is done--perhaps overdone--in a style suggestive of late Victorian. The floors, staircase, doors and woodwork are constructed of "heart" pine imported from Fort Smith, Arkansas. (Lumber for the rest of the house was milled at Fort Towson.) The interior is dominated by 10 foot high ceilings, four massive, sliding double-panel doors on the first floor, and seven fireplaces around a single flue. Indeed, the stair well and six of the nine rooms of the house surround the flue. The central fireplace may be reminiscent of colonial New England building styles where early homes were constructed around a central flue. (See attachment 1 of floor plan.)

The structure has been only slightly altered from its original state. After the present occupants purchased the house in 1951, they removed the back porch and added a den. They also replaced some rotted siding and six support columns of the side porches. Two of the first floor fireplaces were closed, and carpet was laid on all floors save those in the kitchen. These alterations, however, have not compromised the architectural integrity of the Wilson House. It remains an outstanding example of adaptive Greek revival style with a more than occasional bow to the late Victorian period.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1906 to present **Builder/Architect** J. G. Shelton

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Willie W. Wilson House is significant because of the historical importance of its builder and because of its architectural style. Born in 1857 in a two-room log cabin in the old Choctaw Nation, Willie Wilson was a three-quarter blood Choctaw Indian. Among the tribal schools he attended was Old Spencer Academy, a noted educational institution and the site of which is on the National Register. As an adult, he engaged in farming and ranching activities, but he attained his financial prominence as a merchant and banker in the small community of Fort Towson. He was a major figure in the political affairs of the old Choctaw Nation, being elected at different times to the Council, to the Senate, and to the posts of Auditor and Treasurer. Following the demise of the tribal government in 1906, he participated in different conferences preliminary to the formation of the State of Oklahoma. Among these was the famous Sequoyah Convention, which met in Muskogee in 1905 and sought admission of Indian Territory as a separate state. Wilson died on July 1, 1924, but his home remained within his family until 1951 when it was purchased by its present occupants.

Wilson had his Fort Towson residence constructed in 1906 as a gift for his third wife, a white woman who had served as a missionary teacher among the Choctaw Indians. That Wilson should present her with such an imposing house styled in wholly non-Indian architecture suggested his personal accommodation to the 'white man's ways' and his desire to demonstrate his status within the community just as the State of Oklahoma--a white man's creation--was being organized. The builder of the home was J. G. Shelton, a prominent local carpenter. Temple form in style, the two-story structure was totally unique to the community, and save for an identical house constructed for Wilson's brother some 20 miles further east, was unique to the region. The latter house no longer exists, a fact that increases the importance of the Fort Towson property. Fortunately, the Wilson House remains largely uncompromised from its original architecture, the only alteration being an addition of a den on its back side in 1951. This, however, in no way impeaches its architectural integrity. Even the interior of the house remains in its original form.

Because its original owner was a major figure in the history of the Choctaw Indian tribe and because it remains architecturally unimpeached after 74 years, the Wilson House, then, is of major significance in Choctaw County and southeastern Oklahoma.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Indian-Pioneer Paper, Vol 6, Indian Archives, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City
Jane Meyers Interview, Fort Towson, Okla., July 24, 1979
Southeast Oklahoman, July 24, 1958
"Col. Willie W. Wilson," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. 6 (1928), pp. 398-99.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Fort Towson, OK

UTM NOT VERIFIED
Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	5	2	9	10	8	14	5	3	17	6	5	5	18	5
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 4, Block 11, Fort Towson City

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title W. David Baird

organization Oklahoma Historic Preservation Survey date August 27, 1980

street & number Oklahoma State University telephone (405) 624-5678

city or town Stillwater state Oklahoma

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature C. Metcalf date 2-8-82

title _____ date _____

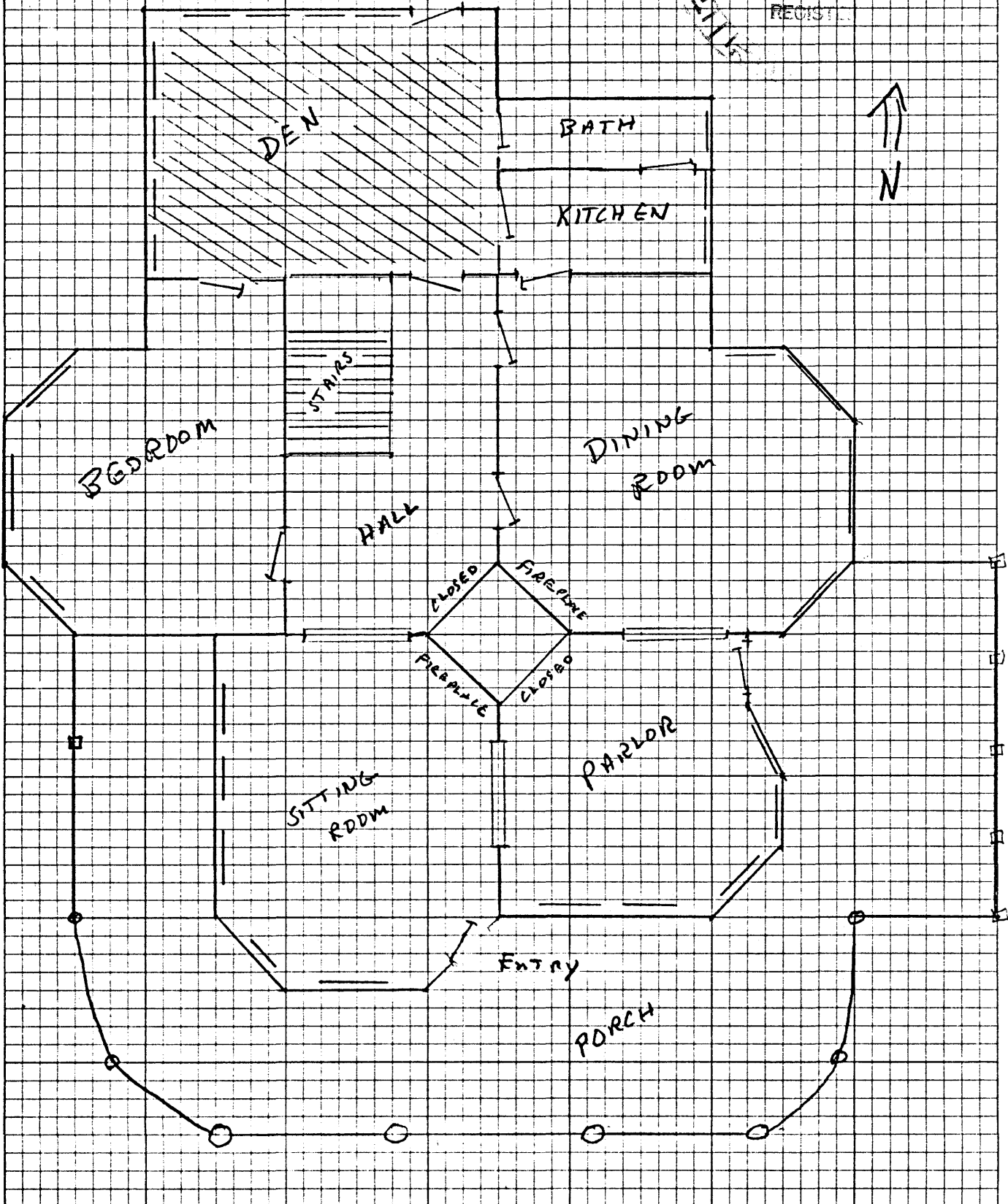
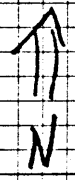
For HCRS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

William H. Braxton date 4.20.82
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____
Chief of Registration

Added in 1951

N.A.A. C. W. G.
NATIONAL REGISTER



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