

**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

1. Name

historic Barnett-Seawright-Wilson House

and/or common Fowler House

2. Location

street & number 203 East Monroe Street _____ not for publication

city, town Delphi _____ vicinity of congressional district 7th

state Indiana code 018 county Carroll code 015

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Joseph C. and Joyce L. Fowler

street & number 203 East Monroe Street

city, town Delphi _____ vicinity of state Indiana 46923

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office

street & number Carroll County Courthouse

city, town Delphi _____ vicinity of state Indiana 46923

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes no

date 1979 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Indiana Department of Natural Resources

city, town Indiana _____ state Indiana

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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 Barnett-Seawright-Wilson House, built in 1857, is a composition of Italianate and Greek Revival styles. The two-and-one-half story house is rectangular in shape with a short side, three bays wide, facing the street. The house is brick with a limestone block foundation. The bricks were made by the first owner and the limestone came from a local quarry. A 7½" limestone sill separates the common bond brick work and the limestone blocks. One of Delphi's many lime kilns supplied the mortar.

The recessed front entrance with shouldered architrave trim is located on the right side of the main (south) facade. The door is flanked by three-section, etched side lights. Above the door is a three-section transom with blue glazing. The steps are simple limestone slabs.

The six over six, double-hung windows, with plain limestone lintels and sills retain some original glazing. The windows on the first floor are taller than the windows on the second floor. The third floor windows on both ends are centered in the gables and have round arched openings. The original wooden shutters are in place. Semicircular window wells allow light to the basement windows. On the main facade, the second-floor window on the right is centered over the main entrance and is not located in relationship to the other windows.

An asbestos shingle roof covers the original gabled, wood shingle roof. Simple brackets, with dentils between the brackets, are located under the eaves and returns.

The northernmost portion of the building is one story high and contains the family room and rear stairway to the second floor. One rear exit is located on the north elevation; a second is placed on the northernmost corner of the east elevation. This latter door leads from the family room to the brick patio built in 1967.

The house is 26 feet wide and 48 feet long and is surrounded by a landscaped lawn enclosed within an iron fence. The fence was purchased from a home of the same time period. The well that furnished water for the Barnetts and Seawrights is still on the site. A retaining wall of native stone on the western edge of the property levels the lawn within the retaining wall.

The carriage house to the north of the house was remodeled in 1949 into a garage and apartment facility. The garden has been replaced by a tailored lawn.

The building is in nearly original condition. A fireplace and chimney were added to the west elevation in the 1930s. The northern, one-story portion of the building was altered and made into a family room and kitchen in 1964 by enclosing the rear porch and adding a second fireplace, and one of the original windows in the family room was replaced by a larger window. The kitchen was originally located in the basement.

Within the house, the stairways, woodwork, transoms, and doors are all original. Five rooms, including the family room, are located on the first floor, four on the second floor, one on the third floor, and four in the basement. The main stairway to the second floor is placed along the east wall of the entrance hall. The building was originally heated by stoves, not fireplaces.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Prominent citizens

Specific dates 1857

Builder/Architect William Barnett

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Barnett-Seawright-Wilson House, built in 1857, has played an important part in the history of Delphi, Indiana. Architecturally, the house provides an excellent example of a combination of two early styles, Italianate and Greek Revival, adapted to local tastes and conventions. The site, itself, was significant prior to construction of the house. A log cabin built there in 1828 served as Delphi's first schoolhouse and as the center of community life for almost 30 years. The successive owners of the Barnett-Seawright-Wilson House have played major political, religious, and social roles throughout the history of the community. Through its owners, the house has remained an integral part of Delphi community life.

Settled in 1824, Delphi first achieved prominence in 1828 when it became the county seat of Carroll County. In 1828 a log cabin was erected as the first public school building in the town. Trials, singing schools, debates, shows, a mock legislature, and services for several religious denominations took place in this small building, before William Barnett razed it to accommodate his new home.

Barnett built the nominated house in 1857 using bricks fired in a kiln established on his own land near the canal. He chose the Monroe and Union Street site because of its convenient location two blocks from the Courthouse Square and one block from the town business district. Barnett was a craftsman, cabinet maker, and businessman long important in the Delphi community. He served as mayor from 1851 to 1853, and was a trustee of Deer Creek Township in 1868-1869, and 1872-1874 — a total of five years.

In 1880, after Barnett's death, the property was sold to Reverend Samuel R. Seawright and his wife, Mary. Reverend Seawright was the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Delphi from 1879 until ill health forced his retirement in November, 1889. His pastorate was "eminently successful" and he was greatly admired as "a forceful, scholarly preacher, and as a man was greatly beloved," according to a history of the church compiled by the Reverend James Omelvena and published about 1900. Reverend Seawright served in exemplary manner and his home was always open to his parishioners. He died in 1890 and was "buried from his residence." His widow and family continued to live in "The Brick" until it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. Wilson, who purchased the property upon the request of Mrs. Seawright and took possession in December, 1917.

The Wilsons avidly participated in community affairs and political activities. Mindwell Crampton Wilson's father, Col. A. B. Crampton, owned "The Delphi Citizen" newspaper, and she began writing a column in the paper at the age of eleven. After completing a master's degree at Indiana University in 1906, she and her husband entered the newspaper business with her father, ultimately assuming ownership. The Wilsons were lifelong Democrats. During the presidential campaign of 1920, the Democratic nominee for Vice President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, visited Delphi to address a party rally. He ate a light lunch with the Wilsons at the Barnett-Seawright-Wilson House before attending the meeting. The Wilson home also served as the setting for receptions for other featured speakers who visited Delphi. Those other dignitaries included several Indiana governors; the Director of the United States Mint, Nellie Taylor Ross; and national officials of Tri Kappa Sorority, Daughters of the American Revolution, several press associations, and the Democratic Party.

9. Major Bibliographical References

PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property Less than one acre

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Delphi, Indiana

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 16 527620 4492900
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property occupies city lot No. 8 and a portion of Lot 7 of the North Addition to the City of Delphi; Lot 8 is roughly 60 x 120 feet in size and is extended eastward with 2 x 120 feet from the west side of Lot No.7. Location is at northeast corner of intersection of East Monroe St. and North Union Street in Delphi.

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joyce L. Fowler Assisted by Dennis McCouch, 2nd Vice-President, Carroll County Historical Society, Delphi, Indiana

organization Co-owner date September 30, 1977; December 15, 1977

street & number 203 East Monroe Street telephone 1/317/564-2108

city or town Delphi state Indiana 46923

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 *Joseph D. ...*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7-10-80

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Joseph D. ...
 Keeper of the National Register

date 9/17/80

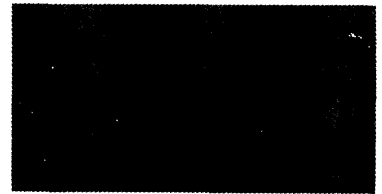
Attest:

W. Ray Luce
 Chief of Registration

date 9/8/80

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Continuation sheet Significance

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Mrs. Wilson was a charter member of the Delphi Chapter of the D.A.R., the first national women's club in Delphi, and the Delphi Chapter of Kappa Kappa Kappa Sorority was organized in the Wilson Home. Also, because of the Wilsons' interests in literature and music, the Barnett-Seawright-Wilson was the scene of numerous recitals, musicales, and after-theater parties.

Just as Mrs. Seawright had chosen the Wilsons to own her home, the Wilsons, in turn, asked their neighbors, the Joseph Campbell Fowler family, to become owners of "The Brick". Thus, in 1959, Joseph C. and Joyce L. Fowler purchased the Barnett-Seawright-Wilson House and the Henry Wilsons moved into the remodeled carriage house, aptly called "The Barnette."

The Fowlers, originally from Lafayette, Indiana, participated in the business community of Delphi as owners of the Fowler Furniture Store on Main Street. Joseph C. Fowler was a great-grandson of Moses Fowler, an associate of the noted John Purdue, and of Eliza Fowler, for whom the Eliza Fowler Hall of Purdue University was named. The Moses Fowler Home, in Lafayette, is now the headquarters of Tippecanoe County Historical Association and its museum. With an appreciation of fine vintage homes and architecture, the Fowlers have carefully maintained the Barnett-Seawright-Wilson-Fowler House in excellent condition, keeping the property as a landmark in the community.

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Major Bibliographical

Continuation sheet References

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- Peat, Wilbur D. - Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century, Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1962.
- Helm, T. B. - History of Carroll County, Indiana, Chicago, Kingman Brothers, 1882.
- Mayhill, Dora T. - Postal and Allied History of Carroll County, Knightstown, Indiana: Banner Publishing Co., 1954.
- Omelvena, Rev. James - History of the First Presbyterian Church, Delphi, Indiana, Citizen Print, circa 1900. (Archives of First Presbyterian Church)
- Stuart, Benjamin F. - History of the Wabash and Valley, The Longwell-Cummings Co., 1924. (Copy in Historical Museum, Carroll County Historical Society, Delphi, Indiana)
- Wilson, Mindwell C. - "The Brick," Scrapbook given to Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Fowler, Delphi, Indiana, 1962.
- Wilson, Mindwell C. - Scrapbook of Columns, "Passing Thoughts," Delphi Citizen, (Issue of May 3, 1945). (In archives, Historical Museum, Carroll County Historical Society, Delphi, Indiana).