

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	1979
DATE ENTERED	MAY 31 1979

**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  
Wilson A. Hart House  
AND/OR COMMON

Robert E. Wilson House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
802 Raton Avenue

CITY, TOWN  
La Junta

STATE  
Colorado

VICINITY OF  
CODE 08

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
3

COUNTY  
Otero

CODE  
089

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

**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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Robert E. and Gracia B. Wilson

STREET & NUMBER  
802 Raton Avenue

CITY, TOWN  
La Junta

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Colorado

81050

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Otero County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
Box 511

CITY, TOWN  
La Junta

STATE  
Colorado

81050

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites (45/03/0011)

DATE  
Ongoing

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS  
Colorado Historical Society; 1300 Broadway

CITY, TOWN  
Denver

STATE  
Colorado

80203

\_\_FEDERAL  STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

# 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

Located at 802 Raton Avenue in La Junta, the Wilson A. Hart House is a single detached structure with two stories. The building materials are stone, brick, and wood, used to provide support, sheathing, and decoration. The house plan is a hipped roof center with wings extending in four directions. The north, south, and east wings end in gables, while the west wing has a low, hipped roof. Each gable has a return with plain projecting verges and pierced-board friezes.

The stone, brick, and wood are used in an interesting combination. The foundation has two rows of rock-faced limestone topped with one row of rock-faced sandstone. The first story consists of red brick set in courses of stretcher bond, but there is a narrow band of sandstone which encircles the structure and forms the window sills. A few feet higher there is a second sandstone course that circumscribes the house and forms the lintels of the windows. The second story is frame covered with fishscale shingles, some rounded, some squared, all painted white. A projecting band of wood surrounds the structure beneath the windows, echoing the stone courses below.

The main or east facade is particularly interesting. The first floor has a large window centered under one gable. There is a smaller window inset on the northeast corner below an overhang with carved ornamentation. To counterbalance this opening, there is a small corner window to the southeast in an open, one story entrance porch. This porch has a mansard roof covered with white, fishscale shingles topped by a widow's walk with a wrought-iron railing. The porch has seven round, slender columns supporting brackets, the roof, and a balustrade. The space between the ground and porch is covered with framed, wooden latticework. Above on the second story is a Palladian window with plain wooden surrounds and topped by a projecting decoration in the center arch.

The north facade, which also faces the street, has received an equally interesting treatment. There is a projecting brick chimney as well as a projecting bay with a large window flanked by two smaller ones. Above is a boxed, shingled pediment which extends up to the roof. The pediment is ornamented with a half circle from which lines radiate to the top. Above the small windows but below the pediment are carved wooden brackets. This facade also has a flat-roofed porch with entrance doors leading into the dining room and kitchen. The porch has an ornamental fascia board, five square supports, and a wooden balustrade. Between the ground and the porch floor are more panels of wooden latticework.

The south and west facades have a less interesting treatment. On the south there is a round window in the gable and three irregularly placed rectangular windows. The west wing has a brick chimney set in the hipped roof.

The house received a few alterations over the years. At the back toward the southwest corner is a one-story addition which once had an open porch sheltering an entrance into the kitchen. It has been enclosed with tongue-and-groove siding and made into a sitting room with an outside entrance to the west. The only other alteration has been the removal of the cresting from the roof.

The interior has seen little change over the years. The downstairs has a living room, dining room, kitchen, the added sitting room at the rear, and a half bath made from an

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED JAN 3 1979	
DATE ENTERED	MAY 31 1979

Wilson A. Hart

CONTINUATION SHEET

House

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

2

old pantry space. The upstairs has three bedrooms and a bath. All the old oak woodwork and floors have been left unpainted. In the kitchen a window into the remodeled porch has been covered and new cabinets installed, but the original wainscoting and some cabinets remain. The quarter-turn staircase that arises from the front entrance hall has the original newel posts, handrail, and balusters. Most hardware and the original sandstone thresholds at the four entrances remain.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

---

SPECIFIC DATES 1898-present BUILDER/ARCHITECT C. D. Amos/George Burnett

---

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wilson A. Hart House is primarily significant for its architectural features which represent a bygone era in La Junta's past. The basically unaltered appearance offers a sense of time and place in the urban landscape and may also serve as an inspiration for more and better renovation, if not the restoration, of other buildings.

The house owes its name and origin to Wilson A. Hart, a well-known banker, insurance and real estate man in La Junta. He had the house designed and built in 1898 and then presented it as a wedding gift to his wife Mary J. Hart. (The construction cost \$2,000.) Mrs. Hart lived in the house until her death on August 11, 1942. The Hart's only child, Robert A. Hart, inherited the dwelling, and rented it to officers stationed at the La Junta Air Base during World War II. But the structure acquired a spooky reputation when Robert committed suicide there on March 25, 1969. After that, the vines, bushes, and flowers so carefully cultivated over the years grew into a wilderness. In the 1970s the house passed through the hands of several owners until it came into the possession of Robert E. and Gracia B. Wilson.

The house has the elements of so many architectural styles that it cannot be classified as belonging to any one. Yet it is an unmistakable, late Victorian structure as may be seen in the roof lines, strong chimneys, ornamentation, and the wealth of stone, metal, and brick details seen throughout. The construction is excellent. The eclecticism and irregularity of plan make the Hart House a surprising, pleasant element in the landscape.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Abstract of Lots 1, 2, and 3; Highland Addition, La Junta, Co.; in possession of owner.  
La Junta Tribune files, 1898, Woodruff Memorial Library, La Junta.  
Mrs. Maude Morris, interviewed by Gracia Wilson, 1976.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.24

QUADRANGLE NAME La Junta

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 13 628100 4204470  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies La Junta, Co., Block 23, Highland Addition; Lots 1, 2, and 3; 140 feet on 8th Street and 75 feet on Raton Avenue.

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

E. Frances Keck, President

ORGANIZATION

La Junta Heritage Foundation, Inc.

DATE

February 1, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

701 Grace Avenue

TELEPHONE

(303)384-2702

CITY OR TOWN

La Junta

STATE

Colorado

# 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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*William C. Townsend*

TITLE

*State Historic Preservation Officer*

DATE

*December 19, 1978*

FDR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

*5-31-79*

ATTEST:

*William H. Graham*

*5.30.79*

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 21 1979
DATE ENTERED	MAY 31 1979

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

---

Wilson A. Hart was a leader in real estate and financial circles in La Junta. He came to the city in 1897 and for a short time owned and operated a horse ranch. Later he became one of the founders of the Buckey and Hart Abstract Company, later reorganized as the Otero County Abstract Company, and which continues in business today as the Ark-Valley Insurance and Title, Inc. Hart was president of this firm until his death. He was also a director of the Colorado Savings and Trust Company in La Junta. And finally, he was a member of the local Masonic Lodge, Rotary, and Elks clubs.

From an architectural perspective the Hart House has more detail, more variety of building materials, and more irregularity of roof lines and walls than other structures in the area. It is unique in La Junta.