

PH 0663131

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 15 1978

DATE ENTERED JUL 12 1978

**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-Finlay House
AND/OR COMMON
Same

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *1105 Gainestown*
Suggsville Road
CITY, TOWN Gainestown VICINITY OF 1
STATE Alabama CODE 01 COUNTY Clarke CODE 025

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	<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:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. and Mrs. Louis Malone Finlay, Jr.
STREET & NUMBER P. O. Box 131
CITY, TOWN Jackson VICINITY OF Alabama STATE 36545

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Clarke County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Grove Hill STATE Alabama

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN
STATE
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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 Wilson-Finlay House, one of two Classical Revival structures remaining in Clarke County, was built in 1846 as a front addition to a ten-room house erected around 1843. Because of its deteriorated condition, the original portion was removed some time after 1903. Restoration of the remaining structure is almost completed, and today it displays the handsome style of an antebellum plantation home.

The house is a 2½-story frame structure with clapboard siding and a gabled roof. The five-bay facade has a two-story central portico with two heavily proportioned limestone columns of the Roman Doric order. The pediment features a box cornice and a lunette. A decorative wrought iron rail encloses the balcony and the sides of the lower porch. Both the front and balcony entrances are alike, having a single-leaf six-panelled door surrounded by rectangular transom and side-lights and surmounted by an entablature. The 6/6 double-hung sash windows are symmetrically arranged. From the front, the two interior chimneys on the slope of the gable are visible.

On the north and south ends, the stark symmetry of the facade is broken by the off-center porches. The two-story north porch is original and bears thin columns and a wooden rail. The south porch has been replaced with a one-story screened shed-roof porch. Two attic windows, similar to the main ones, appear in the ends of each gable.

The rear of the house, on the east, is the only exterior portion not yet restored. Since this was the wall which was attached to the original structure, its features do not conform to the general symmetry of the facade. The one-story shed-roof porch on the south half was added, though the date of the work is not known. On the ground floor are two doors opening onto the porch, the smaller one being flanked by two windows. In addition, three more windows appear on the north section of the rear. The second floor features two windows on each end which were formerly doors leading into the original house.

The interior is arranged on a simple central hall plan with a cross hall at the rear. Flanking the hallway are a parlor and bedroom downstairs and two bedrooms on the second floor. The end chimneys have fireplaces opening into each room, with painted wooden mantels downstairs and marbelized mantels upstairs. The doors and windows feature simple shouldered trim, with the windows having a wooden panel below. The original brass cornices still appear above the living room windows. The ornately moulded plaster of the chandelier-piece was removed in the 1930's when all the downstairs plaster was replaced with board and batten. At the same time, the rear cross hall was partitioned into three sections, forming a kitchen, dining room and bedroom. A former closed o was converted to a bathroom in 1973. The second floor is in poor condition, and renovation began in 1975 when the walls of one bedroom were covered with sheetrock.

The house is situated in a rural area on a 180-acre parcel of land with the fenced-in yard area including approximately 2.7 acres. Only one original outbuilding, thought to have been a kitchen, remains, though it has been moved from its original site. The house is in fair condition, and as the facade restoration is completed, it recaptures its original appearance.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wilson-Finlay House is a fine example of the influence of the Classical Revival style on rural residential architecture in Alabama. Elements of the style appear in the facade symmetry, the pedimented portico, the Doric columns, and the door and window treatment. Though minor interior alterations have been made to provide more comfortable living quarters, facade restoration has returned the exterior to its original appearance. Constructed in 1846 for Dr. Joshua Sanford Wilson, the house today is one of two structures remaining in Clarke County which displays the Classical Revival influence.

In 1817 Dr. Joshua Sanford Wilson had come to Clarke County with his father, Reverend Joshua Wilson, who was one of the founders of the Gainestown community. Having established himself as a leading citizen, Dr. Wilson acquired some property in Gainestown in 1843 which included a ten-room two-story frame house. A few years later he hired a contractor from Maine named Mr. Fuller to construct a front addition to the existing structure. Thereafter the property passed in 1873 to Joseph C. Smith and in 1903 to Annie Bigger Stabler. Sometime after Mrs. Stabler had purchased the house, she determined that the original portion had deteriorated beyond repair and had it demolished. Hence, only the front addition constructed for Dr. Wilson remains.

During the period that the Stabler family occupied the house, several interior alterations were made, including replacing the downstairs plaster with board and batten and dividing the rear cross hall into three rooms. When Louis Finlay, an indirect descendant of Dr. Wilson, acquired the house in 1972, he began the restoration of the exterior. Today the structure is in good condition and its facade has been restored to its original appearance.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Finlay, Louis M., Jr. Information submitted for Clarke County Historical Society, June, 1976.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.7 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	6	4	3	4	3	2	0	3	4	7	9	8	8	10
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attachment.

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

W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director and Sally Moore

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Alabama Historical Commission

February 1, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

725 Monroe Street

(205) 832-6621

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Montgomery

Alabama 36130

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

Miss B. Toward, Jr.

TITLE

SHPO - Alabama

DATE

February 6, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

7/12/78

ATTEST:

Walter... Co. E

SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

6-29-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Beginning at a point on the east side of Gainestown-Suggsville Public Road, said point being the southwest corner of the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 29, T6N, R4E, and proceeding along said public road in a northerly direction approximately 240 feet to a point which begins the boundary of the yard of the Wilson-Finlay House, thence northerly along said public road approximately 549 feet, thence northeasterly approximately 16 feet, thence southeasterly approximately 225 feet, thence east approximately 267 feet, thence south approximately 114 feet, thence east 27 feet, thence south 114 feet, thence west approximately 216 feet, thence slightly southwest approximately 162 feet to point of beginning on the Gainestown-Suggsville Public Road.