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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name: Wilson-Winslow House

other name/site number: Windy Parks Farm

2. Location

street & number: 2414 Harkney Hill Road

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Coventry vicinity: N/A

state: RI county: Kent code: 003 zip code: 02816

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Property name Wilson-Winslow House/Windy Parks Farm, Kent County, Coventry, RI

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.

 See continuation sheet.

Fredrick Williamson
Signature of certifying official

30 Sep 1993
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

 See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this 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):

NOV 23 1993
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Delores Byers

11/4/93

for Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Sub:

Current: DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Sub:

Property name Wilson-Winslow House/Windy Parks Farm, Kent County, Coventry, RI

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Federal

Other Description: _____

Materials: foundation	<u>Granite</u>	roof	<u>ASPHALT</u>
walls	<u>Weatherboard</u>	other	_____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): _____

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1812 1935-36

Significant Dates: c. 1812 _____

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: A Cull, Edwin Emory (1935-36)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 -- Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 2 acres

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>19</u>	<u>277020</u>	<u>4618160</u>	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Joan F. Basler (owner)/Wm McKenzie Woodward, Arch. Historian

Organization: N/A/Rhode Island Historical Preservation Comm. Date: June, 93

Street & Number: 2414 Harkney Hill Rd./150 Benefit St. Telephone: 277-2678

City or Town: Coventry/Providence State: RI ZIP: 02816/02903

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Description

Sited on approximately two acres of rural land at the north end of Quidnick Reservoir, the Wilson-Winslow House/"Windy Parks Farm" is a well preserved early nineteenth-century farm house with remarkably elegant detail and significant later additions. Built c. 1812, it combines the traditional vernacular center-chimney form of the eighteenth century with Federal detail. Later changes include sympathetic interior modernization and extension of a service wing to the east ca. 1935 and addition of a one-story section on the west end of the main block in the 1950s. Set off from the road by a picket fence, the property includes a two-and-one-half-story wood-frame dwelling, a string of outbuildings now attached to the dwelling, a converted carriage shed and an outhouse. Stone walls occur along property edges as well as internally; some bound former pastures and orchards now overgrown.

The wood-clapboard-sheathed, post-and-beam house on a random-course granite-ashlar foundation, facing south. The main block of the house is five bays wide and two bays deep with a one-story, two-bay wide addition on the west side and a one-and-a-half-story ell, probably original, on the east. To the east of the ell the grade changes significantly, and a remodeled barn is attached to a stone retaining wall and the ell's cellar.

Exterior detail is limited but elegant. The pedimented entrance is centered on the facade. The eight-panel door is flanked by fluted pilasters and capped by a semicircular fanlight with tracery set within a pediment with dentil detailing in its raking cornice and above the pilasters. The door is etched on both panels and the center crosspiece, which bears a dragonfly. Large strap hinges support the door on its interior side. Both door handle and door knocker are brass and appear to be original. Window frames are simple, pegged construction. Most windows have twelve-over-twelve-pane sash, but five have six-over-six-pane sash. Most of the glass appears original. On the first floor the windows are topped with splayed lintels. The eaves cornice, mitred out around second-story window frames, has dentils.

The interior is largely intact and typical of, albeit slightly more refined than, early nineteenth-century western Rhode Island houses. The plan of the main block follows a traditional center-chimney, five-room format (see floor plan). Notable here is the northwestern Rhode Island variation, which places the cooking fireplace in the eastern front room rather than in the more common rear center room. Unless otherwise noted, all walls and ceilings are plastered, floors are random-width pine, and posts are encased. All fireboxes are dressed granite.

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The front entry hall has triple-run stairs with winders set in front of the granite chimney. Square balusters are top the closed stringcourse with torus molding. The simple, turned newel posts have ellipsoid caps and acorn drops. Stair treads are tiger maple and chestnut. A small closet is located under the stairs.

The west parlor, enlarged by a western addition in the 1950s, has beaded baseboards, molded chair rail, and molded door frames. The pilaster-framed mantelpiece is particularly delicate, with a paneled frieze and strigate-molding cornice. The west side of the room has a large bow window and French doors open to a screened porch in the rear.

To the east of the stair hall is the original kitchen. The lower half of the walls are sheathed with wide horizontal pine-board wainscot capped with molded chair rail. Baseboards and door frames are molded. The large cooking fireplace has a beehive oven and ash pit. The forty-seven-inch-long, forged-iron crane is original. The fireplace surround is plain wood with molding under the mantle board. The floor is random-width chestnut. A four-panel door in the northeast corner leads to the cellar. North of the original kitchen is a small room, also with horizontal pine wainscot. French doors, added in the mid-1930s, open to a granite terrace.

The room behind the front west parlor extends from the west end of the original kitchen across the back of the house. It was created in 1935-36 by moving a partition to add a portion of the original northwest room to the central rear room. A fireplace, framed by a one-story mantel supported by pilaster strips, is on the south wall. A molded chair rail and beaded baseboard encircles the room.

The ell on the east side of the house is approximately twenty by seventeen feet. Floors are painted chestnut. During the 1988 restoration several floor coverings and a narrow width pine floor were removed to expose this floor. Entrances face each other on the north and south sides. The south door has six panels, backed with planks and supported by large strap hinges; the north door is plank front and back and also hung with large strap hinges. A stairway leads from the ell to the back hall on the second floor. Physical evidence found in the ell's floor on the north side suggests a stair here may have once led to the lower level. Additional physical evidence suggests a fireplace may have been in the east wall.

The second floor follows the plan of the first floor with minor variation in the rear-room arrangement. There are two large front chambers on either side of the stair hall, a large chamber at rear center, a dressing room and bath in the northwest corner, and back stairs, back

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hallway, bath, and small bedroom on the northeast corner. There are fireplaces in each front room and in the rear center room. The fireplace in the front west chamber is ornate, with pilasters on the sides and a decorated frieze; the other two are less ornate with plain wide frieze topped by a molded mantel. All doors have six panels, strap hinges, and wrought-iron latches. All floors are painted dark green with spattered light and various colored paint, a finish installed during the 1930s renovations.

The attic space, finished for living quarters in the mid-1930s, comprises two large rooms, one on each side of the brick chimney, and a modern bathroom within a dormer in the middle of the north side. Access to the attic is through the back stairs in the rear hallway. The hand-hewn beams remain exposed and are numbered with Roman numerals.

Attached to the dwelling on the east side is the service wing, formerly three separate buildings combined in the 1930s. The westernmost section, attached to the house, was probably added in the 1930s. The two easternmost sections, built with post-and-beam construction, are much older; these older sections may have been built on this site, but their origins remain unknown. The central section's second story, converted to servants' quarters in the 1930s, has two bedrooms and a bathroom.

East of the service wing is a shingled, post-and-beam building, originally a two-stall carriage shed. It was remodeled in the mid-1930s into a guest house and later used as a children's playhouse. In the northwest corner is a corner fireplace with original crane.

Behind the kitchen wing, approximately 40 feet from the kitchen door is a seven-and-a-half- by eight-foot outhouse with a rubble stone foundation and clapboard exterior. Interior walls and ceiling are plastered, and the ceiling is domed. A porcelain sink, added at a later date, is on the east wall. The building is in excellent condition.

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Photographs

3. Photographer: Joan Basler
4. Date: May, 1993
5. Location of negatives: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

3. Photographer: Joan Basler
4. Date: May, 1993
5. Location of negatives: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
6. Facade, view from south.
7. Photo #1.

3. Photographer: Joan Basler
4. Date: May, 1993
5. Location of negatives: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
6. Rear elevation; view from north.
7. Photo #2.

3. Photographer: Joan Basler
4. Date: May, 1993
5. Location of negatives: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
6. Front entrance; view from south.
7. Photo #3.

3. Photographer: Joan Basler
4. Date: May, 1993
5. Location of negatives: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
6. Front stairs; view from southeast.
7. Photo #4.

3. Photographer: Joan Basler
4. Date: May, 1993
5. Location of negatives: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
6. West parlor; view from west.
7. Photo #5.

3. Photographer: Joan Basler
4. Date: May, 1993
5. Location of negatives: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
6. North parlor mantel; view from north.
7. Photo #6.

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3. Photographer: Joan Basler
4. Date: May, 1993
5. Location of negatives: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
6. Original kitchen mantel; view from east.
7. Photo #7.

3. Photographer: Wm McKenzie Woodward
4. Date: February, 1992
5. Location of negatives: Rhode Island Historical Preservation
6. Service wing, view from east.
7. Photo #8.

3. Photographer: Wm McKenzie Woodward
4. Date: February, 1992
5. Location of negatives: Rhode Island Historical Preservation
6. Privy, view from south.
7. Photo #9.

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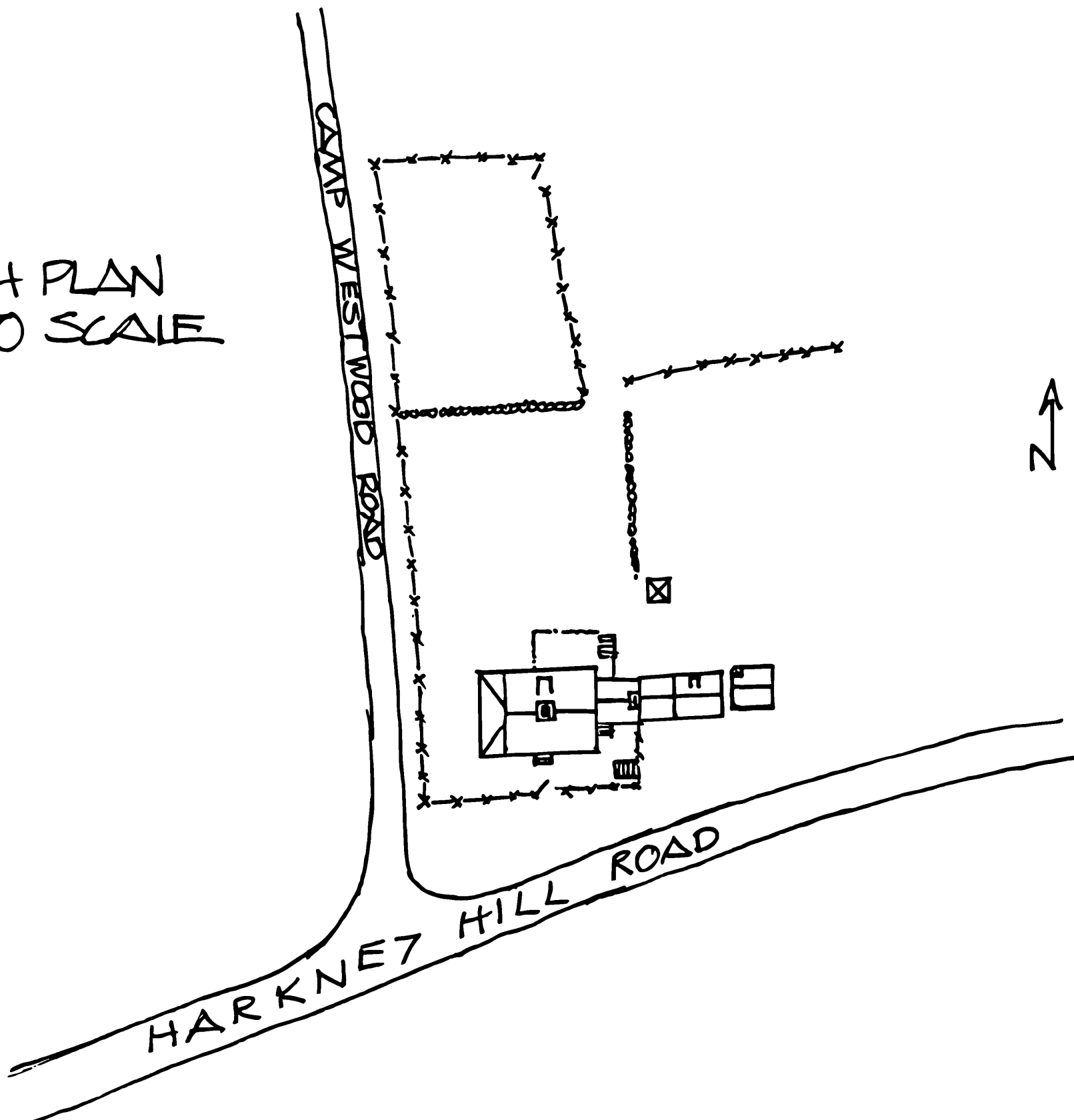
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Site Plan

WILSON-WINSLOW HOUSE
"WINDY-PARKS FARM"
CA 1812, 1935-36

2414 HARKNEY HILL ROAD
COVENTRY, RHODE ISLAND

SKETCH PLAN
NOT TO SCALE



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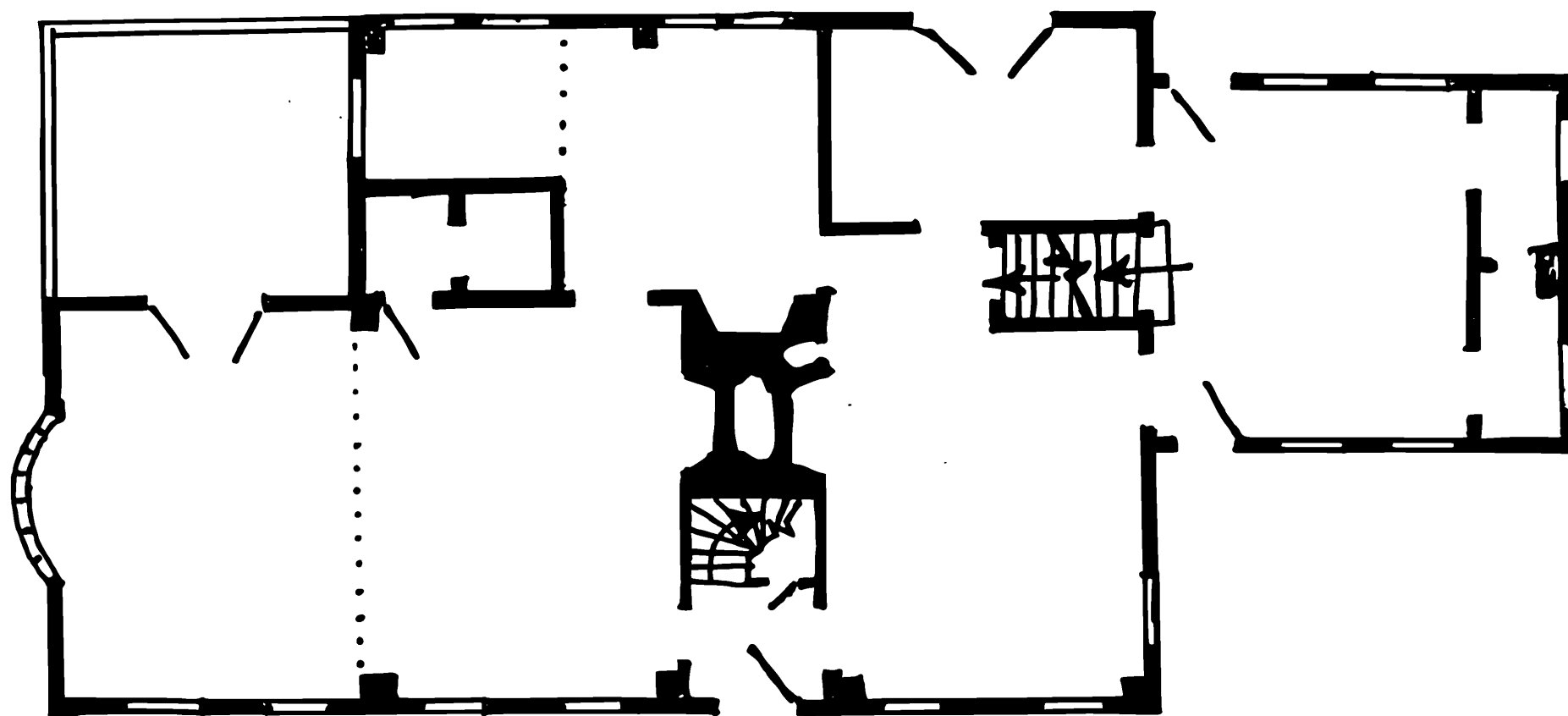
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Sketch Plan

WILSON-WINSLOW HOUSE
"WINDY-PARKS FARM"
CA 1812, 1935-36

2414 LARKNEE HILL ROAD
COVENTRY,
RHODE ISLAND



SKETCH PLAN - NOT TO SCALE



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Significance

The Wilson-Winslow House/"Windy Parks Farm," is architecturally significant as an especially fine Federal farmhouse sensitively renovated for country house use in the 1930s. For both periods, the property retains high degrees of artisanry and integrity; indeed, the two periods are remarkably complementary.

The house was originally built for a member of the Wilson family, either Joseph Wilson, who by 1789 substantially controlled the eighty-six-acre parcel originally associated with this house, or his son Israel, who owned and occupied the house for most of the nineteenth century. The house remained in lineal or collateral family lines until 1917. In 1935, Winthrop and Agnes Parks Winslow purchased the property with approximately eight acres of land, remodeled the house for weekend and summer use, and renamed it "Windy Parks Farm." Mrs. Winslow sold the property in 1980, and the acreage was subsequently reduced to the two acres immediately surrounding the property. The current owners purchased the property in the late 1980s and undertook restoration work in 1988.

The Wilson-Winslow House is significant to the history of architecture as an early nineteenth-century dwelling especially stylish for western Rhode Island, little changed through the nineteenth century, and thoughtfully refurbished as a country house in the mid-1930s.

The house is the most sophisticated and confidently handled example of Federal architecture in Coventry. Other late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century houses tentatively incorporate delicate Federal detail, but the Wilson-Winslow House is more sophisticated and more consistent in its use of Federal motifs in its mantelpieces and principal entrance. Only the detail of the triple-run stair employs well-established decorative vocabulary. The house, moreover, retains a remarkable abundance of original fabric, including exterior sheathing and decorative trim, floors, doors, window sash, window glass, fireboxes and mantel pieces, moldings, wainscoting, and hardware.

The quality and integrity of the house led to its gentle transformation in 1935-36 into a country house for a Providence family. Western Rhode Island became far more accessible for weekend and summer houses after the creation of Route 102 in 1922, and a number of formerly remote Colonial and Federal farmhouses in attractive settings were gradually transformed

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into country retreats.¹ The Winslows employed Providence architect Edwin Emory Cull, by the mid-1930s locally well known for his design work on country houses, both the adaptation of old houses and the creation of completely new houses fashioned to resemble old houses.² Cull retained significant original fabric and deftly inserted renovations into the old house, and the sensitive nature of his renovations received acclaim in the popular press at the time the work was completed:

Modernization consisted chiefly of the installation of a modern heating plant and new bathrooms; the creation of additional closet space, the transformation of the original kitchen into a spacious and charming dining room; the conversion of a large pantry into a breakfast room.³

The rear terrace, accessible through French doors in the breakfast room, was also installed at this time.

The Winslows' attitude toward the renovation and use of the property is clear. Incorporating Mr. Winslow's nickname and Mrs. Winslow's maiden name, they styled their retreat "Windy Parks Farm." The farm designation in itself is telling, and, to reinforce this nomenclature, they grew extensive vegetable and flower gardens, kept fields in nominal agricultural production, and maintained pigs, horses, chickens, and ducks. Such activity, largely executed by tenant farmers and servants, served to support the rustic setting as a background for more sophisticated leisure activity.

¹Similar in attitude but more ambitious in scope was the transformation of a 1732 Exeter farmhouse into an ample country house, "Wawaloam," by architect William T. Aldrich for Houghton Metcalf in 1925-26.

²For further discussion of these two country house approaches and Cull's contribution, see Wm McKenzie Woodward, Historic and Architectural Resources of Little Compton, Rhode Island (Providence: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, 1990), pp. 26-29.

³John W. Hawkins, "Ancient Homes Turn Smart and Citified," Providence Sunday Journal, 20 September 1936.

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The only notable change to the property since Cull's sympathetic alterations was the extension of the west parlor and the addition of a screen porch in the mid-1950s. Executed to accommodate a growing family of grandchildren, the change incorporated the original west-wall windows on the facade and reused original clapboard as much as possible.

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Major Bibliographical References

Historic and Architectural Resources of Coventry, R.I., February, 1979.
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission.

Providence Sunday Journal, September 20, 1936.

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Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The property nominated is Coventry Tax Assessor's Plat 310 Parcel 84.1.

The boundary includes the buildings and land retaining an historical integrity and identity with the periods of significance. The remaining portions of the historical farm have been divided and subdivided and now are either overgrown, wooded, or suburban house lots.