Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

I. NAME COMMON:

2. LOCATION

STATE

The Neilson House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

CITY OR TOWN:

Windsor

Florida

3. CLASSIFICATION

District

Agricultural

Commercial

Educational

CITY OR TOWN:

CITY OR TOWN:

Entertainment

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

STREET AND NUMBER: RFD 2, Box 325

Gainesville

STREET AND NUMBER:

Gainesville

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

CITY OR TOWN:

STREET AND NUMBER:

None

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Alachua County Courthouse

West University Avenue

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

☐ Site

STREET AND NUMBER: State Road 325

CATEGORY

(Check One)

☐ Object

K Building

☐ Structure

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

Public

Private

Both

☐ Government

Industrial

Military

Museum

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Florida

ODE

Public Acquisition:

T Private Residence

☐ Federal

STATE:

☐ In Process

OWNERSHIP

☐ Park

Religious

□ Scientific

COUNTY: Alachua FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY DATE 1973 JUN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Second District COUNTY: CODE Alachua 001 **ACCESSIBLE** STATUS TO THE PUBLIC Yes: Occupied X Restricted X Unoccupied Unrestricted Being Considered Preservation work ☐ No in progress Comments ☐ Transportation Other (Specify) Florida Estate of Gerald and Antoinette Neilson STATE: CODE Florida Alach STATE CODE Florida ☐ State ☐ County Local

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CODE

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				(Check One)		
	Excellent	☐ Good	[X] Fair	Deteriorated	Ruins	Unexposed
CONDITION		(Check Or	ne)		(Che	eck One)
	☐ Alter	ed	☐ Unaltered	i [Original Site

The Neilson House is a mortise-and-tenon system of wood frame construction. Posts and beams are fairly thick in section creating a rigid frame which requires little diagonal bracing. The house is somewhat irregular in plan particularly in its system of porches and verandas. The rooms, however, present an ordered interior space as they all lie off of a central hall running the entire depth of the house. The house is constructed entirely of wood, there being a horizontal sheathing over the wooden skeleton at the first floor level. Above the first floor, the house is covered with shingles cut into various patterns and laid at alternating angles. is of a steep pitch and there are two dormers projecting from it on either side of an imposing balcony structure. On the ground level there is a veranda extending around the north and west sides of the house. Windows are in all cases double-hung sash; one light and elongated on the ground floor. There are two windows in each dormer. Originally the house had one large stained glass window in the extreme southwest corner, but this has since been removed and sold at public auction. main entrance to the house is a single panelled door with a screen door in front of it. The two chimneys, on the north and south ends, are large and elaborate in detail, as was characteristic of the Stick Style houses

Due to a lengthy period of neglect, the house is considerably weathered on the exterior and there are some rotting structural members. The building is currently unoccupied and for sale.



PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	∑ 19th Century	
PECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known) Approx	. 1890	
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	eck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
Abor iginal	Education	Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	Industry	losophy	
Agriculture	Invention	Science	
X Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	Military	☐ Theater	
☐ Conservation	☐ Music	☐ Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Neilson House in Windsor, Florida is so named because of its most recent owners, Gerald and Antoinette Neilson, who both died in 1971. The land was originally sold out of the Arredondo Grant to R. H. Kelley in 1885. An 1885 description of Windsor stated that the town was "originally an old cotton plantation, settled 39 years ago (1846) by cotton planters". It further stated that the settlers were white and from New York, Maine, Illinois and Ohio. The name Kelley is mentioned among its prominent persons in 1885. The population in Windsor at this time was approximately 75. The town continued to grow as a result of the citrus industry until the 1894-95 freeze killed so many of the trees. Failing to recover from this economic disaster, Windsor is today a sleepy little community containing many elegant residences.

The Neilson House is a singularly fine example of a style of architecture which did not flourish in Florida. Andrew Jackson Downing, in his Architecture of Country Houses states that "this architecture (referring to the so-called Stick Style) is not regional, but truly national, and may even be considered to exhibit the major characteristics of a fully developing architectural style". He further referred to the Stick Style as "the real vernacular architecture of the mid-nineteenth century" and the Neilson House in Windsor is one of Florida's few surviving examples dating from this period.



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SEE ATTACHED SHEET 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRE					
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SW 9 , " 0 , "					
LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES					
STATE: CODE COUNTY	CODE				
RECEIVED	\				
STATE: CODE COUNTY: FEB 5 1973	CODE				
STATE: CODE COUNTY: NATIONAL NATIONAL	CODE				
REGISTER	6005				
STATE: CODE COUNTY:	CODE				
11. FORM PREPARED BY					
NAME AND TITLE:					
Diane D. Greer, Historic Sites Specialist					
	25 1072				
Division of Archives, History, and Records Mgt. Jan.	25, 1972				
Department of State - The Capitol					
CITY OR TOWN: STATE	CODE				
Tallahassee Florida	12				
12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFIC	ATION				
As the designated State Liaison 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 c-iteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended					

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

state Florida	
COUNTY	
Alachua	
FOR NPS USE ONI	_Y
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
IIIN / 1072	

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Alachua County Courthouse, Gainesville, Florida. Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. Alachua County Records. (Subgroup: Deeds; Books A, K, S).
- Neilson, Mr. David. Personal Interview (by Diane D. Greer) January 3, 1971. Gainesville, Florida.
- Scully, Vincent J. "Romantic Rationalism and the Expression of Structure in Wood: Downing, Wheeler, Gardner and the 'Stick Style', 1840-1876," Art Bulletin, XXXV, (June, 1953), pp. 121-142.
- Webb, Wanton S. Webb's Historical, Industrial and Biographical Florida. New York: Wanton S. Webb and Co., Pub., 1885.

