

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PHO 699381

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RECEIVED

FEB 18 1979

DATE ENTERED

MAR 30 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, John, House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

S W of De Soto

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Earlham De Soto

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fifth

STATE

Iowa

VICINITY OF

CODE

COUNTY

Dallas

CODE

49

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Harley and Edna Duff

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

De Soto

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 50069

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Dallas County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Adel

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John Wilson house is a two-story building, rectangular in form, with exterior dimensions of 26' x 36'. The house, built in 1861 according to a date stone at second-story level on the east side, is constructed of locally-quarried limestone and is set on a high stone foundation, with basement entrance on the north side. The stone of the main (east and west) facades is more carefully dressed than that of the side walls, but in all cases is laid in a random ashlar pattern. The water table and the broad, flat sills and lintels are of local sandstone.

The house has five-bay, symmetrical facades on east and west. The gable roof ridge is parallel to the long facades, and has a brick chimney on either end. On the north wall of the basement is the original stone fireplace, now enclosed.

A shed-roofed porch on the east side, and a deck on the west, are recent additions, and doors and window sash are new. The original center-hall interior plan of the house has been opened by the removal of some interior walls. The interior has been extensively remodelled, but the original staircase and some of the plastered walls are intact. Plaster was removed from the north wall to reveal the stone beneath.

The property is located in a rural area slightly south of Interstate 80 and just above the Madison County line. The house is situated on ground which slopes down toward the northwest, toward a natural spring. A small creek, fed by the spring, runs along the west side, near the east bank of which is a small wooden corncrib dating from the early years of the 20th century. A modern garage is located to the northeast of the house. The surrounding area includes cropland, pasture, and hay.

The extent of land included in this nomination is 20 acres. Within this rectangle are contained the house, outbuildings, and the natural features (spring, creek, and stand of timber which shelters the house on the northwest) which are an integral part of the visual and historical environment of the property.

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 1861

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wilson house is significant as an example of a particular period and method of construction in the history of Iowa's built environment. It may be generally stated that houses such as this, built of local stone (usually limestone), with simple, traditional form and dating from the mid-19th century, represent a "second stage" in the settlement history of an area or community in certain portions of the state. The first stage is represented by the many remains of rude log structures, which were settlers' first homes. The next step, occurring where native stone was locally and readily available, was often the construction of plain, substantial stone structures (houses, churches, schools, and, in a few cases, barns) such as this house built by John Wilson in 1861. Often, too, these buildings exhibit a certain quality of craftsmanship, and practical use of materials, demonstrated in the Wilson house. The "public faces" of the Wilson house were constructed of dressed stone. The sides, of relatively undressed stone, suggest a desire for economy of effort on the part of the stonemason. The use of sandstone for the sills, lintels and water table provides a nice decorative touch.

John Wilson, with his large family and several cousins, was among the earliest settlers in the area of Penn and Madison Townships (Madison Co.) and Adams Township (Dallas Co.), which during the mid-19th century was one of two concentrations of Quakers in Madison County. These settlements, begun in 1853, were composed of Quakers from Indiana, and were established during the period of greatest Quaker movement into Iowa (1850-60). The movement began in the 1830's, with Quakers entering the state at Fort Madison and Keokuk. Over the next three decades, Quaker settlements moved gradually north and west, between the Des Moines and Skunk Rivers, and the Iowa and Cedar Rivers. Warren County, near Des Moines, was known as the "Three Rivers" area, and from it spread further Quaker communities to the north. John Wilson was a part of this movement, arriving in Warren County in 1853, then moving north to Madison and southern Dallas County, where he purchased land in 1854. For many years, Wilson's descendants and relations contributed substantially to the economic development of this area.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Nunamaker, Sarah. Pioneer History of Earlham. Earlham, Ia.: Earlham Echo, 1927.
 History of Madison County, Iowa. Des Moines: Union Historical Co., 1879, pp. 642-4.
 Davies, J.J. History and Business Directory of Madison County, Iowa. Des Moines: Mills & Co., 1869, pp. 178-79.
 Cook, D.B. "Quaker Settlement in Madison County," in Mueller, H.A. (ed.) History of Madison County, Iowa. Chicago: S.J. Clarke, 1915, Vol. 1, pp. 221-227.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 20 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Adel, Iowa

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62,500

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 | 40,80-95 | 45,95-50
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C 15 | 40,80-70 | 45,95-35

B 15 | 40,80-95 | 45,95-35
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D 15 | 40,80-70 | 45,95-50

E | |

F | |

G | |

H | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The West $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 32, T78NR28W, Dallas Co., Iowa

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

M.H. Bowers, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

January 1979

STREET & NUMBER

26 East Market Street

TELEPHONE

319/353-6949

CITY OR TOWN

Iowa City

STATE

Iowa 52240

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

Adrian D. Anderson

TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

2/8/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

3-30-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

WILLIAM H. BRADHAM

3-28-79

DATE