

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 15000286

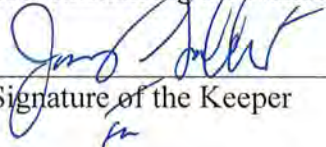
Date Listed: 5/27/2015

Property Name: Wilson High School Gymnasium

County: Mississippi

State: AR

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



Signature of the Keeper
for

5-27-2015

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Period of Significance

The period of significance is hereby changed to 1948.

The impact of the building on the development of the community is reflected in its construction date. The nomination does not justify extending the period beyond that date.

The Arkansas State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Wilson High School Gymnasium

Other names/site number:

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)



2. Location

Street & number: Main Street (Hwy. 61) at Lee Street

City or town: Wilson State: AR County: Mississippi

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B X C ___ D

<u>Stacy Hunt</u>	<u>3-19-15</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date

Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

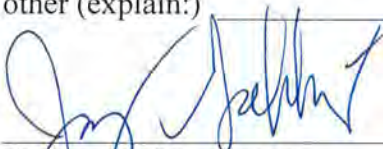
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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper

5.27.2015
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION/Sports Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION/Sports Facility

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT/Art Deco

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; CONCRETE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Built in 1948, the Wilson High School Gymnasium is located south of the public square, fronting U.S. Highway 61 (Main Street) and is bounded on the northeast by Lee Street. It was designed in the Art Deco style, and its façade features a flat-roof entrance with two sets of double doors set within a surround of brick pilasters with concrete capitals. Its original entablature has the inscription "GYMNASIUM." The interior of the gym retains original hardwood floors and bleachers made from Wilson Company timber. The rear wing has the gym's 75-foot pool with original tile. The building has not been used for sporting events in several decades, but possesses historic integrity, as it retains all of its original features from its era of construction with the exception of some replacement of exterior doors. No major alterations have taken place on the interior of the gymnasium, and the building retains its original basketball court, bleachers, swimming pool, plaster walls and steel truss ceiling.

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Narrative Description

Built in 1948, the Wilson High School Gymnasium is a brick building constructed in the Art Deco style. Its exterior retains original decorative features that express the style, as well as original windows on the first floor. Those on the upper level were replaced ca. 1970 with fixed, single-light aluminum and glass windows, and many of these have been covered with plywood panels. The original doors into the building were replaced ca. 1970 with new aluminum and glass doors. The upper brick façade of the main body of the gymnasium has been painted.

The façade of the Wilson High School Gymnasium faces south. It is symmetrical with a central entrance that has two sets of ca. 1970 glass and metal double doors; each set of doors has a fixed, rectangular transom above. Concrete pilasters flank and separate the door sets. This entire group is flanked by wide, brick pilasters with concrete capitals that are fluted. These pilasters support a concrete entablature with a stepped parapet and the inscription "GYMNASIUM." The cornice of the entablature has a pattern of square insets. In front of the entrance are concrete steps with brick side walls.

This entire entrance projects slightly from the main façade wall of the building, which has an exterior of stretcher-bond brick. To each side of the entrance bay there are three sets of windows in the main wall of the façade. Each window opening has a fifteen-light window with both hopper and awning steel panels. Each window opening has a concrete sill. The outer-most bay at each end of the façade has a similar five-light steel window with a decorative, concrete medallion above. This entire façade is one-story with a flat roof that has concrete coping. Above this story, the full-height of the main gymnasium section is visible. This upper section of the gymnasium is brick that has been painted. It has quoins and pilasters of brick and a cornice with a fret band.

This cornice pattern is continued on the east and west elevations, which are also of stretcher-bond brick. On the north and south elevations, the one-story front section has secondary entrance bays projecting from the main gymnasium walls. The entrance bays have double doors flanked by brick pilasters with concrete caps. Above each set of doors is an arched inset of brick with a basket-weave pattern. Above each entrance is a concrete, decorative medallion. The main walls of the gymnasium are recessed from these entrances on both the north and south elevations. The main gymnasium walls are of stretcher-bond brick with brick pilasters with shed-roof concrete caps. At the rear of each of these elevations there is another entrance similar to those at the front of these walls. Windows on the west elevation are covered in plywood on the first and clerestory levels. The windows on the first floor of the east elevation are similar to those in the outer bays of the façade. The windows on the clerestory level on the east elevation were replaced ca. 1970 with fixed, single-light aluminum and glass windows, and many of these have been covered with plywood panels.

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At the rear of the east elevation, a one-story boiler room wing projects from the main wall. It has windows similar to those on the first floor of the east elevation of the gymnasium. The boiler room wing also has a square, interior, brick chimney. On the opposite end of the building of this one-story wing (on the west elevation), there is an entrance into the swimming pool area. The rear (north elevation) of the building is the back wall of this one-story pool section. It has the same exterior of stretcher-bond brick and similar windows as on the first floor of the east and west elevation; some windows are covered in plywood.

Entering the Wilson High School Gymnasium on the main façade, there is a foyer with trophy cases. The floors are linoleum, and the walls are plaster. The foyer continues into the east-west hallway with exits at each end. Beyond the hallway is the main body of the gymnasium. The floor of the basketball court within the gymnasium retains its original hardwood surface, and the walls remain bare brick above a skirt wall of plaster. The gymnasium retains original wood bleachers, made from Wilson Company timber. Other original interior features are a scoreboard and an announcer's booth in front of the bleachers on the east side of the floor. Doorways at the rear of the basketball court lead to the rear swimming pool section.

The swimming pool is seventy-five feet in length and nine feet at its deep end. The surface of this area's floor, as well as the pool bowl, retains original tile. Lockers have been installed along the rear (north) wall of the swimming pool section. A chain-link fence has been installed around the perimeter of the pool itself for security. The pool is currently drained and empty.

The Wilson High School Gymnasium retains a high degree of integrity in location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling. It has long been used as a recreational facility by students and residents of the community and continues to meet that need in a limited fashion. A majority of its original fabric remains intact, and its design continues to express the Art Deco style. Its location a short distance from the public square remains a distinctive educational/athletics-use setting apart from the historically busy commercial/public center and residential neighborhoods. The building's association with the town of Wilson remains strong as a recreational facility of a closely-knit community active in extracurricular sports.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING
EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1948-1965

Significant Dates

1948

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Wilson High School Gymnasium is significant on the local level under Criteria A and C. It is a key building in the community development of the town of Wilson. When it was built it was considered a first-rate facility offering a range of athletics to Wilson students. The construction of the gymnasium reflected the emphasis on education in the community and its indoor swimming pool was unusual for rural Arkansas communities. Its Art Deco style is evident in its exterior design. The period of significance for the Wilson High School Gymnasium is from 1948, the year of its construction, through 1965, the latest date of use that falls within the fifty-year rule for National Register nominations.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Wilson was founded as a company town by agricultural entrepreneur Robert Edward Lee Wilson (1865-1933). As a teenaged orphan, Wilson inherited 400 acres in Mississippi County, Arkansas, and expanded his holdings into a 40,000+-acre working landscape that included his eponymous company town. Harvesting timber, buying up tracts of seemingly barren wasteland, and installing drainage ditches and levees, Wilson transformed swampland into productive cotton fields. Forging his own New South business model, Wilson capitalized on innovative methods and practices in farming and finances and established a family dynasty that spanned over a century. The town of Wilson was praised as a model of Progressivism, with above average amenities for a rural community and numerous civic-minded social clubs. The Wilson High School Gymnasium was an integral part of the Progressive philosophy advanced by the Wilson Company for the benefits of its employee-residents.

Wilson is located in northeastern Arkansas, in Mississippi County, which was established in 1833. The first population census for the county occurred in 1840, when there were 1,410 (900 white residents and 510 slaves) living in its borders.¹ Among the pioneers arriving in this decade was Josiah Wilson, accompanied by his wife and two daughters. In 1846, Wilson laid claim to 160 acres of cypress forest.² Residents living in the swampy delta contended with mosquito-transmitted disease, which claimed the life of Josiah Wilson's wife. Yet for many westward settlers, the prospects of fertile land outweighed the threat of disease, and Mississippi County's population increased to 2,368 by 1850. Over the next decade, cotton prices soared, and the delta lands west of the Mississippi River continued to draw new settlers. Wilson expanded his land holdings by 1850 to 900 acres, on which he raised food crops, but no cotton. Over the next decade, Wilson grew his farming operation to 2,300 acres and began growing cotton. During the

¹ "Mississippi County," at Arkansas Encyclopedia of History and Culture web page accessed January 8, 2015 <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=791>.

² "The Wilson Family," in *The Delta Historical Review*, Spring 1998, 3.

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same period, Wilson also increased his number of slaves from twenty-one to forty. By 1860, the county's population was 3,898, and there were 17,584 acres of land in cultivation.³

With the Civil War, Mississippi County's agriculture declined, as did the wealth of its farmers. During the 1860s, Josiah Wilson moved to Memphis, placing his son-in-law Napoleon Lafont in charge of operations at his Arkansas plantation. Wilson died in 1870 without a will in place, leaving his heirs to divide his assets. His youngest son, Robert Edward Lee Wilson, ultimately inherited 400 acres of timberland.

Known as "Lee" throughout his life, Wilson proved a natural competence for business and assisted his siblings, half-siblings, their spouses and children in business and legal matters. As Wilson's relatives succumbed to poor health and their finances to poor management, he succeeded in resolving legal and business problems on their behalf. Wilson apparently was equally endowed with superior health; as his relatives died from various ailments, he purchased the parcels that ultimately re-consolidated his father's 2,300-acre estate. Additionally, Wilson bought thousands of acres adjacent to his familial tracts. During this period, Wilson married Elizabeth Beall, for whom he built a 3,000-square foot home, and went into business with her father as Wilson and Beall Lumber Company.⁴ Beall operated Wilson's sawmill, while Wilson himself built six miles of roads from the river to logging camps, establishing a successful and profitable partnership.⁵ Wilson also assumed a patriarchal role among his surviving family members, bringing them and their future spouses into his business and household, in some instances. Workers and family settled a small village, named Wilson, in 1886.

Wilson was equally adept in both farming and in social/business settings. As his sawmill produced 14,000 board feet per day by 1889, he conducted business with lumber dealers and manufacturers in the metropolises for Chicago and St. Louis.⁶ In local business, Wilson regularly attended levee board meetings, advocating flood control systems to combat the constant challenges of his flood-prone landscape. Wilson carefully cleared his timber lands for cultivation in cotton. Also, in this period of Northern business influx in the South, Wilson remained dedicated to building his empire, maintaining ownership and management of his business operations while courting, but not selling out to Northern capital.⁷

As Wilson bought timber lands and cleared them for farming, he planted three crops: half his tillable land was put into cultivation for cotton, his cash crop. The remaining fields were equally divided for the growing of alfalfa and corn, to feed his work mules.⁸ After 1880, the productive landscape of eastern Arkansas attracted labor from the Deep South. Wilson hired black and white

³ Jeannie Whayne, *Delta Empire*, 21, 25-7.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 45-47.

⁵ Goodspeed Publishing Company, *Biological and Historical Memoirs of Northeast Arkansas*, (Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1889), 509.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ Whayne, 48.

⁸ R.E.L. Wilson III, Oral Histories, "Founding of Wilson, Arkansas," and "Wilson's Three Crop Formula," accessed October 23, 2014, at <http://libinfo.uark.edu/SpecialCollections/ardiglib/leewilson/av.html>

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workers in his sawmill, camps, and fields. During this period Wilson employed 100 workers in his cotton fields and 30 men in his lumber mill.⁹ He built tenant houses, advancing costs to workers through his company store. Unlike many company towns of the period, Wilson enjoyed a higher-than-average standard of living. With the exception of railroad employees and the postmaster, all residents enjoyed access to company doctors for just \$1.25 per year.¹⁰

Life in the Town of Wilson was known for its strong civic and educational benefits, as well as the support the community benefactor, Lee Wilson. In 1920, he donated the land and paid for much of the cost of construction (\$150,000) of the Wilson K-12 located school south of the town square.¹¹ In 1922, the new Wilson Consolidated School was hailed as the town's most outstanding feature, attracting national attention. The new school included a three-story classroom building with an auditorium, a community room, rooms for physics, chemistry, and music, a library, study hall, and a roof garden. The school grounds also included a free-standing home economics building, a cafeteria, an agricultural science building, and a gymnasium. There was also a furnace, which in 1922 was touted as a "modern vapor system heating plant," connecting to all the above buildings but the gymnasium, which had its own boiler room.

Athletics were considered an important addition to scholastic studies for Wilson students. The school curriculum included a compulsory physical education class for boys and girls. Wilson's first football team was established in 1921, the year after the school was completed. By 1922, there was also a girls' basketball team. The Wilson High School girls basketball team was the county champion for four straight years, from 1945-1948. Wilson also had Junior Girls and Boys basketball teams.

By the late 1940s the original gym was considered no longer functional to meet the school's needs and a new gymnasium was planned for the town. Although the town's founder, Lee Wilson had died in 1933, his heirs continued to operate the business as Lee Wilson & Company and helped to finance the new modern gymnasium completed in 1948. The *Osceola Times* newspaper of August 29, 1947, had a front page article stating that, "Work is progressing on a gymnasium and swimming pool with completion scheduled during this school year." The gymnasium was built with a basketball court, bleachers, locker rooms, athletic offices and an indoor swimming pool. The 1949 *Wilson High School Yearbook* prominently featured the new gym and especially the swimming pool which was one of the most modern for high schools in the state. The swimming pool not only was used by students but was also open to the public in the evening during the summer months.

⁹ Goodspeed, 509.

¹⁰ University of Arkansas Libraries Special Collections staff, "Life in Wilson, Lee Wilson & Company Archives, accessed October 23, 2014, at <http://libinfo.uark.edu/SpecialCollections/ardiglib/leewilson/default.asp>

¹¹ Katherine Cullom, "A History of the Wilson Club House and Cooperative Club," in *The Delta Historical Review*, (Blytheville, AR: Mississippi County Historical and Genealogical Society, Summer 1993), 1-5.

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Over the next several decades the Wilson High School Gymnasium was the center for the school's athletic program. Wilson became known for its many star athletes such as Howard Lynn Cissell who graduated in 1954. After playing football as a Wilson Bulldog, Cissell was a running back at Arkansas State University and was later on the coaching staff of the Baltimore Colts. Wilson High School won many regional championships in a wide variety of sports and the gymnasium retains large trophy displays in the entrance hallway.

By the end of World War II, the Wilson Company's holdings had burgeoned into a multi-faceted plantation comprising 63,000 acres among five towns. Its 57,000 acres of farmland was considered "the largest single tract of intensively cultivated land in the world," according to a promotional government document about Arkansas. Company fields at that time produced as much as three cotton bales per acre, possible only in the rich alluvial soil of the Delta. Additionally, the Wilson Company produced 600,000 bushels of corn and 30,000 bushels of wheat, as well as 40,000 tons of alfalfa, annually. There were 3,000 acres in soybeans and 500 acres in non-commercial truck crops in 1945. The company soon expanded its truck crop operation to reach distant metropolitan markets.¹²

The vast Wilson farm was then home to 10,000 people and included other industries such as lumber mills, a box and crate factory, a meat packing plant, an ice plant, a bank, a flour mill, the largest cotton oil mill in the South, and numerous and varied retail stores. The town of Wilson, the largest of the company's five towns, was home to 4,000 residents. Town children were enrolled in progressive schools offering a standard educational curriculum, vocational subjects and athletics. The streets were graced with family-planted oak and cottonwood trees, rare sights in the tree-less plains of cotton fields.¹³

In 1959, the town was incorporated, and workers were given the opportunity to purchase their homes outright.¹⁴ Despite the business success of the Wilson Company, the Town of Wilson had been operating at a substantial loss. The Wilson family determined that incorporating the town and selling homes to individual owners would generate tax revenue that the town could access to remain vital. Wilson employees were able to purchase their homes at an average of four thousand dollars. Incorporation of the town immediately resulted in a reversal of annual operational losses.

Lee Wilson's grandson, Robert E.L. Wilson III, continued the diversification principle of the company expanding into a number of different agri-businesses, including seed and chemicals. Further diversification extended to vegetable crops, which relied on migrant labor due to a lack of farm workers in eastern Arkansas. The company built a strawberry processing plant to supply Breyer Ice Cream in Philadelphia; Wilson sweet potatoes went to Gerber for baby food. When

¹² "The Wilson Plantation: Wilson, Arkansas," in *Special Arkansas Bulletin*, July 20, 1945, pages 3-4, available at Lee Wilson and Company Documents, <http://libinfo.uark.edu/SpecialCollections/ardiglib/leewilson/doc/documents.html> accessed October 23, 2014.

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ Eldon Fairley, "The Wilson Family," In *The Delta Historical Review*, (Blytheville, AR: Mississippi County Historical and Genealogical Society, Spring, 1998), 4.

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the United States government abruptly ended the labor program, the Wilson Company could not maintain its vegetable crop efforts and re-focused on the production of commodities: cotton, rice, and soybeans. Still, the company prudently remained diversified in seed oil production, ranching, and other industries, to off-set cyclical periods of boom and bust in agriculture. Overall, four of six annual crops were profitable, making Lee Wilson & Company one of the most successful agri-businesses in the South.¹⁵

Wilson's population has steadily declined since 1960, when 1,191 people lived there. Mechanization of agriculture, especially the cotton industry, reduced the need for laborers, and former Wilson employees moved elsewhere. The Wilson High School was demolished in 1965 and on its site a new grade school was constructed to serve the community. Consolidation of schools in this section of the county resulted in the construction of Rivercrest High School northwest of Wilson. Sporting events at the Wilson High School Gymnasium were discontinued after 1965 but it remains in partial use as a locker room for the Rivercrest High School football team when it uses the adjacent football field for practice. The gymnasium's basketball court has bleachers and scoreboards which have been preserved in place since the 1960s.

By 2010, Wilson had 903 residents. At that time, the Wilson family, heirs to Lee Wilson's dynastic holdings, sold the entirety of their real estate properties, as well as the Town itself. Entrepreneur Gaylon Lawrence, Jr., of Nashville, Tennessee, purchased Wilson for an estimated \$110 million. Lawrence plans to re-invent the town and its surrounds as Delta mecca of arts, culture, and education.¹⁶ Included in these plans is the preservation and renovation of the gymnasium building which has not been significantly altered and retains much of its original design.

The town of Wilson was praised as a model of Progressivism, with a modern school building and gymnasium, above-average amenities for a rural community, and numerous civic-minded social clubs. The Wilson High School Gymnasium is significant in the educational history of Wilson and also reflects the unique heritage of the Wilson family and their role in community and agricultural development of the region.

¹⁵ "Lee Wilson and Company: Yesterday and Today," webpage.

¹⁶ Kim Severson, "Arkansas Town's New Owner Has Visions of Its Renaissance," The New York Times, January 19, 2014, available at http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/20/us/arkansas-towns-new-owner-has-visions-of-its-renaissance.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_20140120&r=0

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Wilson, Robert E. Lee, III. Oral Histories, "Founding of Wilson, Arkansas," and "Wilson's Three Crop Formula." Accessed October 23, 2014, at <http://libinfo.uark.edu/SpecialCollections/ardiglib/leewilson/av.html>

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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: University of Arkansas Archives; Town of Wilson Public Library;
Town of Wilson, Company Archives.

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 4.75 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 35.565351 N | Longitude: -90.052791 W |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

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Or
UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Wilson High School Gymnasium is located on tax parcel 857-00033-000 that also includes the Wilson Elementary School. The gymnasium and school complex face Highway 61 (Main Street); Lee Street encompasses the school complex in a U-shape, while the gymnasium is located to the west of Lee Street. There is a football field between Highway 61 and the gymnasium. The nomination boundary for the Wilson High School Gymnasium is Lee Street on the northeast, Highway 61 on the southeast, a line along the southwest edge of the football field from Highway 61 and continuing along the southwest side of the gymnasium on the southwest, and the property line immediately to the rear of the gymnasium on the northwest.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Wilson Elementary School is excluded from the boundary as it was constructed in the late 1960s following the demolition of the original Wilson High School. The gymnasium is associated with the historic High School and shares no association with the newer elementary school. The gymnasium was built as part of the high school complex during the period that the town of Wilson was still a company town, whereas the elementary school was built following incorporation of the town and consolidation of the school system. The running track to the west of the gymnasium also was not part of the original gymnasium plan. The football field is included in the boundary as it is historically associated with the gymnasium. To the north of the gymnasium is a vast cotton field not associated with the gymnasium. The boundary encompasses all of the property historically associated with the gymnasium building.

Wilson High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Mississippi County, AR
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Andra Kowalczyk Martens, Phil Thomason, edited by Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator

organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

street & number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500

city or town: Little Rock state: AR zip code: 72205

e-mail: ralph@arkansasheritage.org

telephone: (501) 324-9787

date: February 3, 2015

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Wilson High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

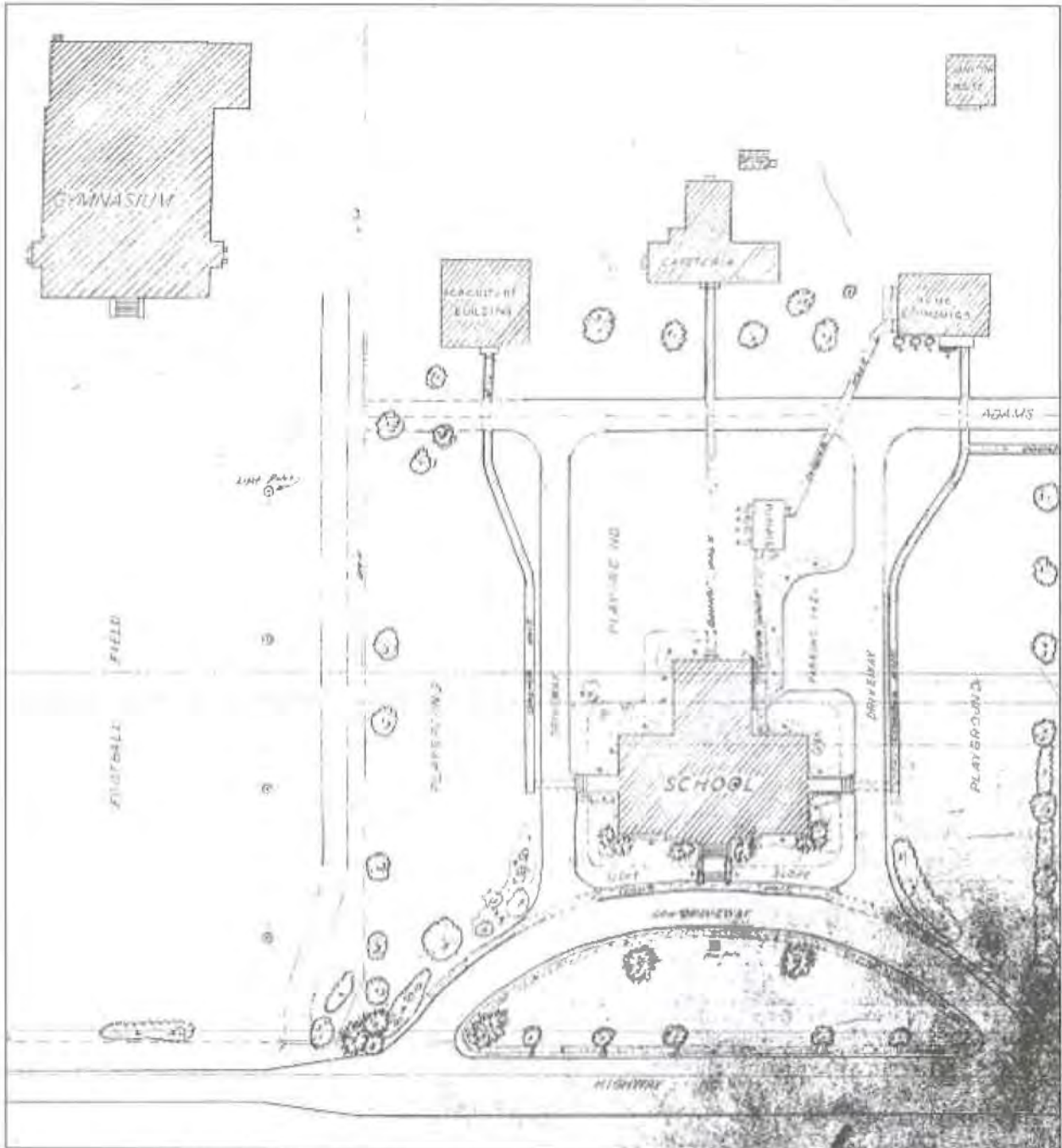
Mississippi County, AR
County and State



Location of Wilson Gymnasium on 1983 Wilson USGS Quad Map.

Wilson High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Mississippi County, AR
County and State



Wilson High School and Gymnasium layout from 1948.

Wilson High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Mississippi County, AR
County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Wilson High School Gymnasium

City or Vicinity: Wilson

County: Mississippi

State: Arkansas

Photographer: Phil Thomason

Date Photographed: October 18, 2014.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 17. South and east elevations.
- 2 of 17. South elevation.
- 3 of 17. South elevation and entrance.
- 4 of 17. East elevation.
- 5 of 17. West elevation.
- 6 of 17. North elevation.
- 7 of 17. Boiler wing at rear of east elevation.
- 8 of 17. Pilaster detail.
- 9 of 18. Decorative medallion.
- 10 of 17. Secondary entrance on east elevation
- 11 of 17. Entrance hall and trophy case.
- 12 of 17. East-west hallway.
- 13 of 17. Basketball court.
- 14 of 17. Basketball court scoreboard.
15. of 17. Basketball court bleachers.
- 16 of 17. Swimming pool tile detail.
- 17 of 17. Swimming pool.

Wilson High School Gymnasium
Name of Property

Mississippi County, AR
County and State



THE HIGH SCHOOL and GYMNASIUM

The High School and Gymnasium are second to none in the State.



The Wilson High School Gymnasium was featured in the 1949-1950 *Wilson High School Yearbook*.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.







GYMNASIUM





















IN FOULS MINUTES SECONDS IN FOULS

PERIOD

HOME VISITOR





DIVING IN
SHALLOW END

POOL RULE

1. SHOWER WITH SOAP
2. NO GUN FOOD OR DRINKS
3. NO PROFANITY
4. NO SMOKING
5. KEEP CLOTHING & SHOES IN LOCKER ROOM
6. NO RUNNING OR HORSEPLAY
7. NO THROWING OBJECTS
8. NO GLASS OBJECTS
9. NO CUTOFFS OR T-SHIRTS



3 1/2 FEET DEEP

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Wilson High School Gymnasium

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Mississippi

DATE RECEIVED: 4/17/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/08/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/26/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/02/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000286

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 5-27-2015 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A/c
REVIEWER J. Gilbert DISCIPLINE _____
TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS
HERITAGE

April 1, 2015



Asa Hutchinson
Governor

Stacy Hurst
Director

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl.
Washington D.C. 20005

RE: Wilson High School Gymnasium – Wilson, Mississippi
County, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Loether:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

If you need further information, please call Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Stacy Hurst
State Historic Preservation Officer

SH:rsw

Enclosure

-
- Arkansas Arts Council
 - *
 - Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
 - *
 - Delta Cultural Center
 - *
 - Historic Arkansas Museum
 - *
 - Mosaic Templars Cultural Center
 - *
 - Old State House Museum
-



Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program



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