

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 16

10. (N-5808):

A. Property Name: W. H. Schultz House (Edward R. Wilson House)

B. Location & Verbal Boundary Description: The W. H. Schultz House is located at 521 South College Avenue (Delaware Route 896) on the east side of the road approximately one-quarter of a mile south of the Penn Central Railroad tracks. The house is situated on a parcel of land totaling 373.83 acres (Property Tax Map, City of Newark, No. 5.32 & 37, Lot No. 1); however, only a four acre tract surrounding the house is being included in this nomination. The tract has a frontage of 250 feet on South College Avenue, and a depth of 700 feet. It is bounded by, but does not include, the straight run of driveway to the south, South College Avenue to the west, the line of privet hedge to the north, and an imaginary line connecting the hedge line to a crossover in the driveway on the east. This tract maintains the historic open vista from the road to the facade of the house, while excluding the twentieth century dwellings and outbuildings to the rear of the house.

C. Owner: University of Delaware, HULLIHEN Hall, Newark, Delaware 19711

D. Property Description:

The Edward R. Wilson House, is a circa 1860, three-story, gable-roofed frame dwelling with a porch running across its facade, north endwall, and rear elevation. A circa 1900 two-story brick wing adjoins the south endwall and a later frame wing extends from the rear of the brick addition.

The facade of the original block is nearly square and exhibits three evenly-spaced bays; the doorway located in its southernmost bay. This square facade, in combination with the double-pile-plan gives the building almost cubic proportions. The main doorway consists of a door with two raised and molded vertical panels surrounded by a transom with an oval and circle tracery pattern, and sidelights with the same tracery pattern above raised and molded panels. The windows on all elevations are largely proportioned, six-over-six sash with plain surrounds and sills; all shutters have been removed. Whitewashed weatherboard sheathes the exterior walls. The gable roof, which is very shallowly-pitched, exhibits a heavy molded box cornice with partial gable end returns and scroll brackets below both the eaves cornice and the raking cornice. A pair of large stuccoed interior chimneys, with a row of dentils below their caps, project through the roof of each endwall. A single-story hip-roofed porch extends across the facade and continues around to the north endwall and rear elevation. It is supported by a brick and stone pier foundation with lattice infill, chamfered posts with molded capitals, and ornate jigsaw brackets. A square baluster railing and molded box cornice are other distinguishing features of the porch.

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For NPS use only JAN 12 1983  
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Continuation sheet    W. H. Schultz House    Item number 8    Page 17

The interior of the original block is arranged in a double-pile, side-hall-plan. The hall is quite wide, occupying one third of the first floor area. A partition wall stands just before the staircase at the rear of the hall. Above the doorway of this partition is a traceried transom, identical to the one above the facade entrance. The staircase, which rises in several straight runs up to the third floor, has a slender columnar newel post and a turned baluster railing. Woodwork on the first floor is characterized mainly by the deeply-cut moldings and bull's eye corner blocks surrounding all the door and window openings. Other decorative details include paneling on the side of the staircase, a molded chair rail in the hall that continues up the staircase, interior shutters on the entrance sidelights, and raised paneling in the splayed window cases. The woodwork on the second and third floors is less ornate, consisting primarily of simply-molded door and window surrounds. The interior doors on all floors have two raised and molded vertical panels.

This main block of the house has a full basement with rubble stone foundation walls and brick partition walls. A brick fireplace with a flat-arched opening and an adjacent oven is located on the north wall.

The addition on the south endwall of the original block is a two-story, flat-roofed brick wing laid in seven-course common bond. Two-over-two sash windows light the wing; those on the first floor having elliptical brick arches and those on the second floor having plain wooden lintels. The frame addition at the rear of the brick wing is a two-story, flat-roofed projection sheathed with wood shingles.

Although this building has recently been converted to dormitory use by the University of Delaware, it remains in nearly original condition. The only alterations affecting the main block have been the conversion of two small rooms into bathrooms, the blocking of a couple doorways (woodwork still intact), and the closing of all fireplaces.

**E. Historical Background:**

W. H. Schultz is known to have owned the farm on which this house is situated in 1868, but by 1893 the property had been transferred to Edward R. Wilson. The State of Delaware acquired the farm in 1907, after which it was dubbed "The State Farm." That same year the general assembly passed an act authorizing a bond issue of \$20,000. The proceeds were to be applied toward the purchase of equipment for the farm, which was to be managed by the Board of Trustees of Delaware College. Since 1907, the house has remained as part of the University of Delaware Farm, an agricultural experiment station managed by its College of Agriculture. The farmhouse presently provides dormitory space for some of the University's agriculture students.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 18

F. Significance:

The W. H. Schultz House fulfills National Register selection Criterion C as an example of the Greek Revival/Italianate style house type common in Delaware.

While relying on the basic three-story cubic form of the Greek Revival style that was so popular in Newark during the middle of the nineteenth century, this building also introduces Italianate decorative features. Rather than employing the simple, molded box cornice and classical columned porch characteristic of Greek Revival dwellings, this house displays a heavy overhanging cornice with scroll brackets and a delicate porch with slender posts and jigsaw cut-outs.

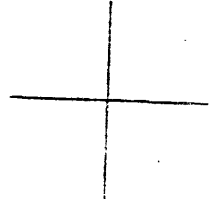
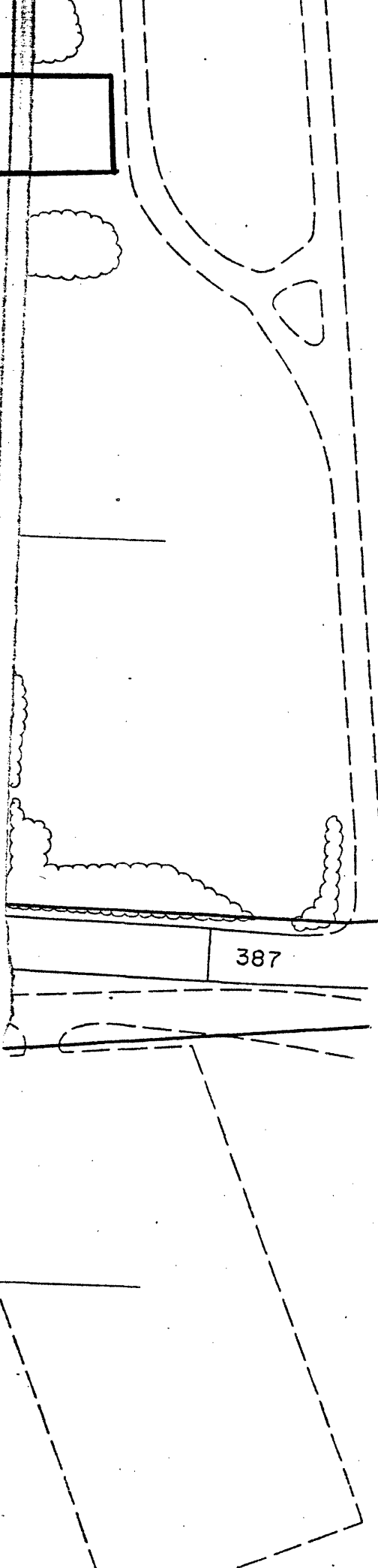
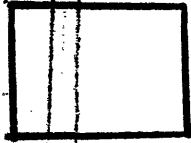
SKETCH MAP Scale 1"-100'

N-5808

Edward R. Wilson House

Property no. 36

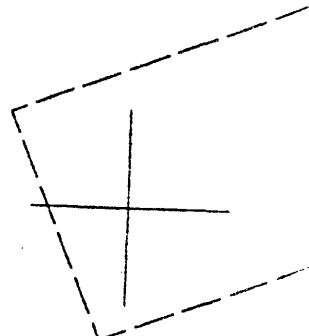
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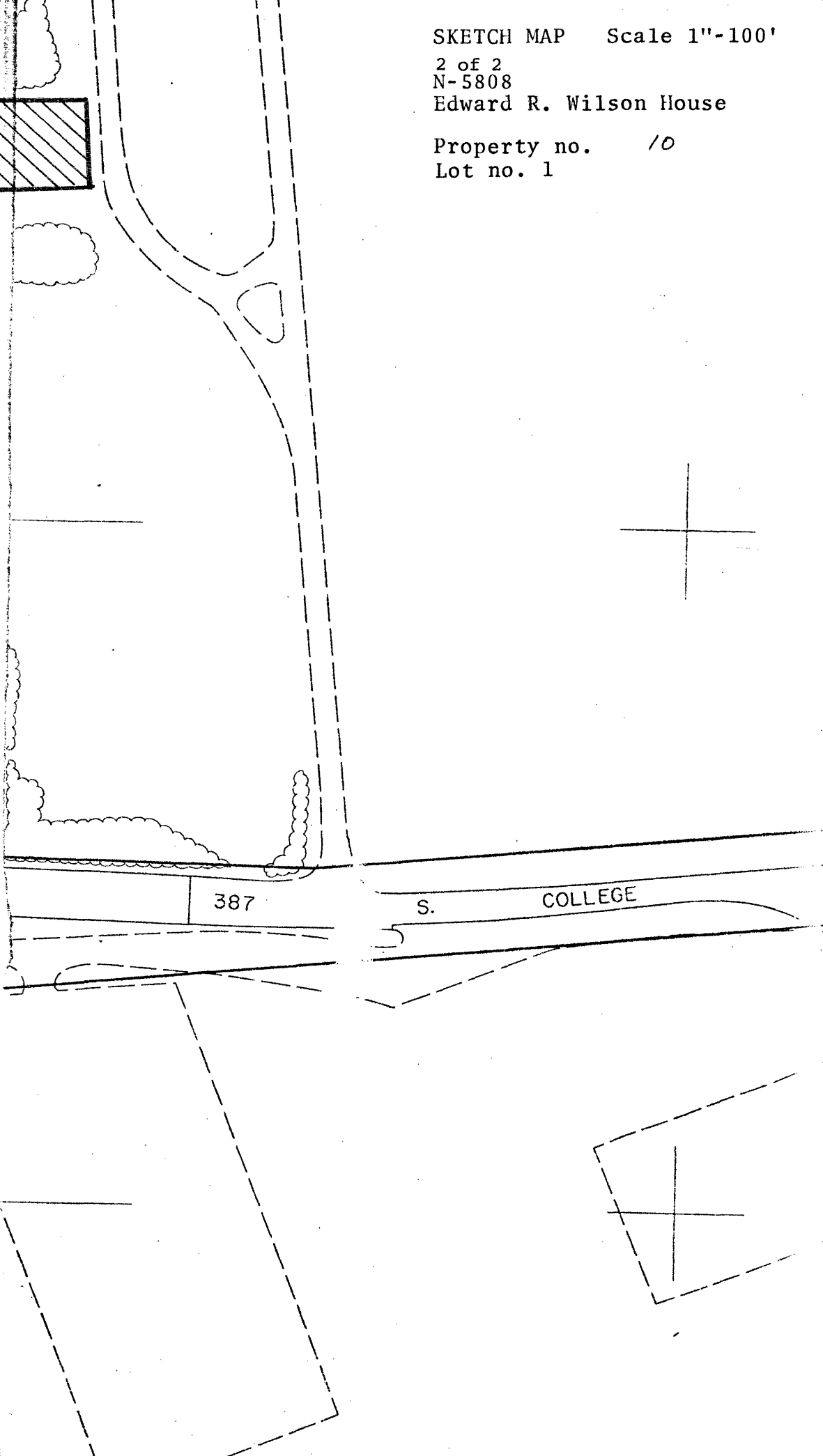
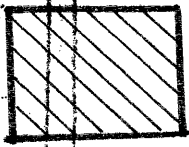


SKETCH MAP Scale 1"-100'

2 of 2  
N-5808

Edward R. Wilson House

Property no. 10  
Lot no. 1



SKETCH MAP  
1 of 2  
N-5808  
Edward R. Wilson House  
Property no. 10

