

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received FEB 10 1986

date entered

MAR 13 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Oak Hall

and/or common Century Oak

2. Location

street & number 1704 Wilson Pike

N/A not for publication

city, town Brentwood X vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Williamson code 187

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Samuel Madison Stubblefield

street & number 1704 Wilson Pike

city, town Franklin N/A vicinity of state Tennessee

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Williamson County Courthouse

street & number Public Square

city, town Franklin state Tennessee

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Williamson County Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission

city, town Nashville state Tennessee

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located on the east side of Wilson Pike near Brentwood (pop. 9,608) in Williamson County, Tennessee, Oak Hall is a two story red brick residence built in 1845 for Samuel S. Wilson. Rectangular in plan, the five bay residence sits on a limestone foundation and is surmounted by a hip roof with ridge. Originally constructed with three stories and a parapet roofline, the third story was demolished in 1920 when the house was struck by a tornado. The interior retains much of its original woodwork including a central spiral stairway and elaborate molded door casings. A detached kitchen is also located within the boundaries of the nominated property. Having undergone few recent alterations, Oak Hall retains much of its architectural integrity.

The east facade is a symmetrical design with each story displaying a central entry flanked by two windows. Both entries are comprised of a double leaf paneled door surrounded by shouldered architrave molding, glass and paneled sidelights, and a transom light. The 6/6 double hung sash windows are capped by polished limestone lintels with corner blocks. Many of the windows retain their original hinges for shutters. A one story trabeated wood porch, constructed in 1950, covers the main entry. The original porch was embellished with a second story balustrade and pilasters.

The north and south elevations are identical in design. Two exterior end chimneys are found on both elevations. A one story frame addition, attached to the east elevation, is visible from both sides.

Fenestration on the second story of the east elevation consists of four 6/6 double hung sash windows identical to the windows on the facade. Two additional windows are found on the north corner of this elevation. A one story shed roof frame addition covers the remainder of the east elevation.

The interior plan is defined by a central hall with two rooms on each side. Floor and ceiling joists are poplar, as is most of the flooring. Only the floors in the dining room and southeast parlor are oak. Ceilings are 12'8" tall while the plastered walls are 12" thick. All of the window and door casings are comprised of shouldered architrave trim. Windows on the first story also have paneled aprons. All of the interior doors retain their original hardware while each room contains a fireplace faced with polished limestone and lined with brick.

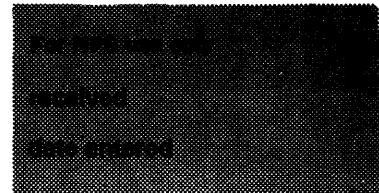
One outstanding feature of the interior is a spiral stairway located in the central hall. Leading to what was once the third story ballroom, the open string stairway is composed of a simple balustrade and a mahogany handrail. Sawn ornamental scroll brackets below the treads further enhance the finely proportioned stairway.

Openings framed by Ionic pilasters and a molded entablature with a denticulated architrave separate the first story rooms on each side of the central hall. Above the second story is what was once the ballroom. The open space is 25' wide and runs the length of the house. After the 1920 tornado demolished the ballroom, the walls were not refinished.

Electric wiring was installed in the 1940s. At this same time the second story northeast bedroom was divided and closets and bathrooms added. A 12'x37' basement (the same dimensions as the central hall) was excavated in 1950. Central heating was also installed then.

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Oak Hall is surrounded by mature trees and a fruit orchard. East of the residence is the original kitchen. The two story brick building is 20'x17' and is capped by a low pitch gable roof sheathed with metal. An exterior end chimney is situated on the south elevation while entries are found on the north and east elevations. Fenestration on the kitchen is identical to that on the main house. The original iron fireplace cranes are extant. Two cisterns are also located within the boundaries of the nominated 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/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates 1845–1933 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Oak Hall is being nominated under National Register criteria B and C for its local historical and architectural significance. Built in 1845 by James Hazard Wilson II for his eldest son Samuel, the house is important for its association with the Wilson family, prominent landowners and developers in Williamson County. Architecturally the house is a good example of antebellum residential design, displaying Greek Revival entries and polished limestone lintels on the exterior. The interior retains much original woodwork, including moldings, door casings with an Ionic motif, and a three story spiral stairway. The original kitchen building is also included in the nomination. Although the roof of the main house was altered in 1920, there have been no other major alterations and Oak Hall retains its original character.

James Hazard Wilson II (1800-1869) was a prominent businessman and landholder in Middle Tennessee. He owned property in Tennessee, Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas and operated a steamboat line on the Mississippi River. In 1821 he married his cousin Emeline. She was the daughter of Samuel D. Wilson, one of the first Secretaries of State in Texas. Wilson built Ravenswood (NR 1983), his own residence, on Wilson Pike in 1825. He helped build a suspension bridge in Nashville and during the Civil War outfitted an entire company. At one time he was estimated to be worth two million dollars.

Samuel S. Wilson (1823-1851), James' eldest son, married Lucy Ann Marshall (1829-1871) in 1845. Lucy was the daughter of Joseph H. and Frances Marshall who operated the old City Hotel in Nashville. James built a residence along Wilson Pike for Samuel and Lucy. Known as Oak Hall because of the ancient white oaks that surrounded it, the house originally had three stories with parapeted gable ends. Oak Hall contains excellent woodwork such as the spiral stairway and Ionic pilasters. A detached kitchen was also constructed at this time. Oak Hall was the second of three houses James H. Wilson II built on Wilson Pike. In addition to Ravenswood and Oak Hall, James had Inglehome built in 1858 when his son James H. Wilson III was married.

In addition to managing his own estate, Samuel had the responsibility of managing his father's vast plantation holdings in Tennessee while James traveled to properties outside the state. Samuel and Lucy had two daughters Lulie Byrd (1850-1909) and Anna Mae (1851-1866). Samuel died of a heart attack in 1851 while attending the funeral of his grandmother.

In 1853 Lucy married Franklin Sterling Wilson (1831-1871), Samuel's brother, and they continued to live at Oak Hall. They had two children. Their daughter Frances Emeline Mobley Wilson Carr (1864-1933) continued to live at Oak Hall until her death.

An interesting story is told concerning Oak Hall during the Civil War. When Federal troops were in the area, Franklin supposedly led several of his (blindfolded) thoroughbred horses up the circular stairway and hid them in the ballroom.

The family Bible records that James H. Wilson II died at Oak Hall in 1869.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.3 acres

Quadrangle name Franklin, TN

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	6	5	2	0	7	9	0	3	9	7	9	6	3	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mrs. Sam Stubblefield

organization N/A date October 30, 1985

street & number 1704 Wilson Pike telephone 794-8316

city or town Franklin state Tennessee

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hygen

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 2/5/86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 3-13-86

John Alvin Byer
Keeper of the National Register

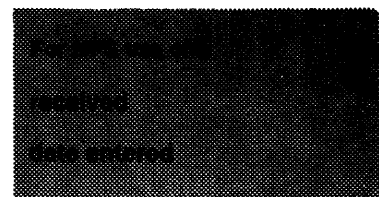
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet Oak Hall

Item number 8

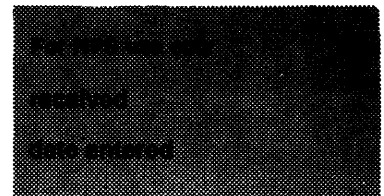
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Most of the oak trees were lost in 1912 when the Louisville and Nashville Railroad built a line through the front yard. In 1920 a tornado damaged the third story of the house and the present hip roof was built. Oak Hall remained in the Wilson family until Frances Carr's death in 1933.

Today the house is known as Century Oak for one of the remaining large oak trees. As one of three houses near Brentwood built by Samuel H. Wilson II, Oak Hall is a significant architectural and historical resource in Williamson County.

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Continuation sheet Oak Hall Item number 9 Page 2

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bowman, Virginia McDaniel. Historic Williamson County. Nashville: Blue and Gray Press, 1971.

Little, Vance. Historic Brentwood. Brentwood, Tennessee: JM Publications, 1985.

Williamson County. Deed Books. Williamson County Courthouse. Franklin, Tennessee.

Williamson County. Will Books. Williamson County Courthouse. Franklin, Tennessee.

CITY LIMITS

NO. - 2

05
9AC

Louisville

37.07
2.99AC.

WILSON

37.06
3.15AC

Nashville
R.R.

37.03
4.89AC.

10

11

37.01
3.527Ac.

17
AC

PIKE

37.02
13.13AC

N
W
E
S

37.04
53 AC.

37
162.5 AC

Oak Hall
1704 Wilson Pike
Brentwood vicinity, Williamson County, TN

TAX MAP 1" = 400'



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