

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED DEC 11 1979
DATE ENTERED FEB 15 1980

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 The Judge William A. Wilson House
AND/OR COMMON
The Wilson House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
501 Fairburn Road, S.W.
CITY, TOWN
Atlanta
STATE
Georgia
VICINITY OF
Fifth - Wyche Fowler
COUNTY
Fulton
CODE
013
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Fifth - Wyche Fowler
CODE
121

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Vacant

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Southwest Community Hospital
STREET & NUMBER
501 Fairburn Road, S.W.

Contacts: -A.W. Mumford, Hospital Administrator
-C.E. Warner, President
Board of Trustees

CITY, TOWN
Atlanta
STATE
Georgia 30331

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Superior Court
STREET & NUMBER
Fulton County Courthouse
CITY, TOWN
Atlanta

STATE
Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE a) Category One List of Historic Sites, Structures and Districts
b) Historic Structures Field Survey: Fulton County, Georgia

DATE a) January, 1978
b) 1977
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS a) Atlanta Urban Design Commission
b) Historic Preservation Section, Ga. Dept. of Natural Resources
CITY, TOWN
Atlanta
STATE
Georgia

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

The Judge William A. Wilson House is located on Fairburn Road approximately 500 feet from Southwest Community Hospital. The nominated property includes fifteen acres of land.

The Wilson House is a two-story Greek Revival structure that was built over a period of three years, 1856-59. The exterior walls are constructed of fieldstone and mortar. The width of the walls is graduated, being approximately thirty-five inches at the base of the wall and tapering to approximately eighteen inches at the top of the wall. The two-story portico with a second-floor porch was removed in the early 1960s when a two-story frame addition was constructed on the foundations of the portico. The original front door, now located in the addition, has an overlight and sidelights. Two windows are located on each side of the front door. A second-story front doorway, once leading to the second-story porch, is exactly like the first-floor doorway. Second-floor windows are found above the first-floor windows. Four windows are located on each floor of the sides of the structure. A screened porch is located on the rear of the structure.

The interior floor plan is the typical Greek Revival floor plan: a central stair hall with four rooms on each floor. Other Greek Revival features are noted in the molding around the doorways and windows and the high ceilings. The newel post and handrail have been removed, but the owners know where they are presently located.

Although the house is in a deteriorated condition, the owners have taken measures to prevent further deterioration. The windows have been boarded up to prevent further vandalism and the shutters and the mantels have been removed for protection. The original portico is utilized in a residential structure owned by John Cash, III, a direct descendent of the Wilson family.

The family cemetery is located southwest of the Wilson House. The builder of the Wilson House, William A. Wilson, and members of the Wilson family are buried in the cemetery. The graves of several of the Wilson family slaves are located on the edge of the cemetery. They are marked by small stones.

Once located on the property was a detached kitchen and several slave cabins. The kitchen was located southwest of the Wilson House. Suffering from deterioration, the kitchen was demolished in the 1960s. A garden was once located behind the kitchen with chicken coops adjacent. The slave cabins were located directly south of the Wilson House, but their exact location is unknown.

The main road that served the Wilson House in the 1800s was located in front of the structure. The original route can still be discerned in the wooded

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FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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area. Portions of the original landscaping are still visible. Four large cedar trees are located near the house.

Wilson family plantation is no longer intact due to subdivision of the property. The nominated property, fifteen acres, was chosen to include structures and sites that are known to have been associated with the Wilson House. Today, the environment reflects the suburban growth that has occurred in the area. Much of the property immediately surrounding the Wilson House is now forested or overgrown.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Judge William A. Wilson House is significant to the architectural and local history of Atlanta. The Wilson House is of an unusual construction type found in the Atlanta area and is one of the few remaining antebellum houses in the area. Judge Wilson was an active leader in the community affairs of Atlanta and Fulton County. The Wilson House served as a temporary headquarters for Union troops during the campaign of Atlanta during the Civil War.

Architecturally, the Wilson House is significant due to its unusual method of construction and that it is one of few remaining antebellum houses in Atlanta. The exterior walls are constructed of fieldstone and mortar that has been stuccoed. The walls are reported to have been constructed by pouring the materials into a form. The house was built partially with slave labor. Although in a deteriorated condition, the Wilson House is an architectural resource in that it is an example of a typical four-over-four Greek Revival house. Characteristics of the Greek Revival architecture are noted in the massive molding and the floor plan: a four-over-four design with a large central hall. Since it is one of a few antebellum houses in the Atlanta area that survived the Civil War, it is significant to our understanding of antebellum structures and methods of construction in the Atlanta area.

Judge Wilson (1824-1903) was the youngest son of James William and Mary Leake Wilson, early settlers in the Atlanta area. William Wilson acquired approximately 1,200 acres from his father in 1839. This became one of the largest plantations in the area prior to the Civil War. It was on this land that Judge Wilson began construction of his house in 1856. Constructed partially by slave labor, the house took three years to complete.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Wilson took his wife, Sarah Amanda Glass Wilson, to Covington to her family home and he returned to Fulton County to enlist in the 38th Regiment, Georgia Volunteer Infantry. He served in this unit for the duration of the war. In August, 1864, the Wilson House was directly in the line of a Federal flanking movement designed to cut railroad lines leading into Atlanta and thus quicken the surrender of the city. Federal troops camped on Wilson land during a month-long series of skirmishes known as the Battle of Utoy Creek. According to Wilson family tradition, General William

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Atlanta Constitution, April 24, 1932.

The Atlanta Journal, December 13, 1931.

[continued]

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 15

QUADRANGLE NAME Ben Hill, Ga.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 6 | 7 3, 0 4, 2, 0 | 3, 7 3, 6 4, 4, 0

B 1, 6 | 7 3, 0 6, 5, 0 | 3, 7 3, 6 4, 4, 0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C 1, 6 | 7 3, 0 6, 7, 0 | 3, 7 3, 6 7, 3, 0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D 1, 6 | 7 3, 0 4, 2, 0 | 3, 7 3, 6 7, 3, 0

E | |

F | |

G | |

H | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Boundaries are indicated by a heavy black line on the attached U.S.G.S. map enclosing 15 acres more or less.

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

Kacy Ginn, National Register Researcher

ORGANIZATION

Historic Preservation Section, Dept. of Natural Resources

DATE

October 22, 1970

STREET & NUMBER

270 Washington St., S.W.

TELEPHONE

(404) 656-2840

CITY OR TOWN

Atlanta

STATE

Georgia 30334

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

Elizabeth A. Lyon

TITLE

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

12/3/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Sally G. Deale
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

2/15/80

ATTEST: *Ann A. Davis*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

2/14/80

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Tecumseh Sherman used the Wilson House as a temporary headquarters during the last week of August, when the Federal forces finally destroyed the two remaining rail lines to Atlanta. On September 2, 1864, the city of Atlanta surrendered to the Federal forces. Before the troops left the Wilson property, they gave the Wilson House to the overseer, who was reluctant to return the house to Wilson after the war.

After termination of the Civil War, Judge Wilson became active in the community affairs of Atlanta and Fulton County. In addition to serving as a justice of the inferior court in Fulton County for the years 1857-61, he was a representative in the Georgia General Assembly for the 1875-76 session. He was a charter member of the Bethel Methodist Church of Adamsville, where he served in the Sunday school department as superintendent. His home was the center of social and community gatherings. The Adamsville Masonic Lodge was formed and chartered in the Wilson House. Wilson served as sheriff of Fulton County for the 1877-81 term.

Sarah Wilson died in 1869, and Judge Wilson married Emma Loyd (1843-1912) of Virginia in the early 1870s. Judge Wilson died on March 27, 1903. The Wilson House remained in the family until 1962 when Dr. Thomas N. Guffin, great grandson of the builder, sold the property to the Holy Family Hospital. The house was converted into a nurses' quarters for the Sisters who staffed the hospital. The house has been vacant for several years. Southwest Community Hospital, formerly Holy Family Hospital, plans to restore the property and use it as a community center.

No formal archaeology has been reported for the nominated property. Knowledge of previous structures is available through maps and oral family tradition. The kitchen and slave houses and other necessary structures were important facets of the Wilson House and the events that occurred on the property. An understanding of the property could be gained from an archaeological study of the nominated property.

The nomination for the Wilson House is sponsored by the Friends of Southwest Community Hospital, a volunteer supportive organization of the hospital. The organization plans to preserve the structure and use it as a community center.

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Documentation supplied by Friends of Southwest Community Hospital; Gwen H. Smith, chairperson, Committee to Restore the Judge Wilson House.

Draft National Register nomination by the Atlanta Urban Design Commission, form prepared by Marion Rich and Susan Brooks, Historic Sites Researchers.

Garrett, Franklin. Atlanta and Environs: A Chronicle of Its People and Events. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1954.

The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1891.

Yearley, Midge. "Blacks Want to Save House the Slaves Built," The Atlanta Journal, April 6, 1979.