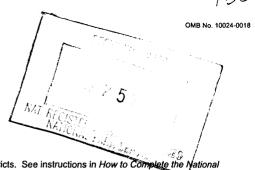
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property	
historic name Wilson House	
other names/site number N/A	
2. Location	
street & number 75 North 5th Street	N/A not for publication
city or town <u>Cambridge</u>	X_vicinity
state Idaho code ID county Washington	code_087 zip code_83610_
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
nominationrequest for determination of elithe National Register of Historic Places and Part 60. In my opinion, the property X_meet property be considered significantnational comments.)  Signature of certifying official/Title SUSAN P. NEITZEL, Deputy State Historic literature of the state of the st	nal Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X igibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR ts _does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this lly _statewide X locally. (_ See continuation sheet for additional    11/24/03   Date     Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau	
additional comments.)	not meet the National Register criteria. (_ See continuation sheet for
Signature of certifying official/Title	Date
State or Federal agency and bureau	
4. Național Park Service Certification	
I hereby certify that this property is:  Ventered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  determined not eligible for the National Register.  removed from the National Register.	Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  Date of Action
other, (explain:)	

Wilson House Name of Property		Washington County, Idaho County, and State
5. Classification		
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)
X private	X building(s)	Contributing Noncontributing
_ public-local	_ district	1buildings
_ public-State	_ site	sites
_ public-Federal	structure	structures
	_ object	objects
		1 Total
Name of related multiple pro (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a		Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
N/A	<u></u>	0
6. Function or Use  Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)  DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling	·	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)  DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling
7. Description		
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instruct	tions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Ann	<u>ne</u>	foundation_STONE
		walls WOOD/Weatherboard
	<u></u>	roof ASPHALT
	<del></del>	other
	_	

### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

	n House of Property	Washington County, Idaho County, and State
	atement of Significance	
	-	Areas of Significance
(Mark	able National Register Criteria "x" on one or more lines for the criteria ing the property for National Register listing.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
_ A	Property is associated with events that have	ARCHITECTURE
	made a significant contribution to the broad	
	patterns of our history.	
_B	Property is associated with the lives of persons	
	significant in our past.	<u> </u>
<u>x</u> c	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics	
	of a type, period, or method of construction, or	Period of Significance
	represents the work of a master, or possesses	1903
	high artistic values, or represents a	
	significant and distinguishable entity whose	
	components lack individual distinction.	Significant Dates
_ D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield,	1903
	information important in prehistory or history.	
	a Considerations	
(Mark	"x" on all that apply.)	Significant Person
Prope	ty is:	(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
_ A	owned by a religious institution or used for	N/A
	religious purposes.	Cultural Affiliation
_B	removed from its original location.	
_c	a birthplace or grave.	
_ D	a cemetery.	
_E	a reconstructed building, object, or	Architect/Builder
	structure.	Unknown
F	a commemorative property.	
_ G	less than 50 years of age or achieved	
	significance within the past 50 years.	
	ative Statement of Significance in the significance of the property on one or more continuation s	hoots \
(Lxpia	in the significance of the property of one of more continuation s	,
		X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No.
9. Ma	jor Bibliographical References	
	graphy ne books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form	on one or more continuation sheets.)
	us documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
	iminary determination of individual listing CFR 67) has been requested Other State agency	x State Historic Preservation Office
_ prev	riously listed in the National Register	_ Federal agency
	riously determined eligible by the National ister	_ Local government _ University
_ des	gnated a National Historic Landmark	X Other
	orded by Historic American Buildings Survey	Name of repository:
	orded by Historic American Engineering	Cambridge Museum
Rec	ord #	X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No.

Wilson House Name of Property	Washington Co County, and Sta	ounty, Idaho Ite
10. Geographical Data		
Acreage of property Less than one		
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation	sheet.)	
A 1/1 5/2/5/3/6/0 4/9/3/5/6/7/0 B / 1/1/1/ Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting	///// Northing	
C <u> </u>	<u> </u>	
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)		
The boundary of the property includes only the footp	rint of the Wilson House.	
	-	_ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.) The boundary includes only the footprint of the house	e because the property is nominated	for Architecture, and the larger parcel
associated with the house has 2 substantial recent in	ntrusions on it.	See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10
11. Form Prepared By		
name/title Emily Peeso and Thel Pearson		_
organization	date August, 2003	
	telephone <u>208-794-2678</u>	_
city or town Boise	_ state_ID_ zip code _83707_	
Additional Documentation		
Submit the following items with the completed form:		
Continuation Sheets		
• Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) ind	dicating the property's location.	
A Sketch map for historic districts and/or	properties having large acreage or n	umerous resources.
Photographs: Representative black and white page 1. Photographs: Representative black and white page 2. Photographs: Representative black and	photographs of the property.	
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO f	or any additional items.)	
•	- ,	

street & number 970 North 3<sup>rd</sup> East telephone 208-587-2869
city or town Mountain Home state ID zip code 83647

**Property Owner** 

name Mary Wilson McCoy Shrader

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to riominate 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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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	County and State _	Washington County, Idaho

#### **SUMMARY**

The Wilson House is a one-and-one-half story, wood frame, Late Victorian Queen Anne-style, residential building with a rectangular plan (28 feet wide by 54 feet long). The house has a multileveled, hipped roof (medium pitch of 5/12 - 8/12) with flared eaves and a front porch. Constructed in 1903, the interior of the house reflects early twentieth century Queen Anne-style elements in the decorative carpentry and finishing pieces.<sup>1</sup> The house is situated on the top of a hill at the western edge of the town of Cambridge where the rural farmland and the town neighborhoods meet. The landscape behind the house (outside of the city limits) is reminiscent of the old farmland. Along North 5<sup>th</sup> Street (in front of and on either side of the house), other domestic buildings have been erected. The Wilson House still has a large lot and long setback, keeping it separate from the town neighbors. The city limits boundary line excludes the Wilson House property.<sup>2</sup>

#### **EXTERIOR**

The main façade faces northwest and has balanced asymmetry. The foundation is made of irregular stone masonry while the walls are beveled weatherboards. The principal roof is hipped with a secondary, hipped roof extending from the backside of the building along the longitudinal ridge. The roof is now covered with composition shingles and topped off with two, corbeled brick chimneys. An open gable projects forward out of the hipped roof above the porch. A woodwork ornament decorates the gable along the verge.

The front porch has spindlework decorative elements. Lace-like brackets connect the spindlework frieze to the delicate, turned post supports. These features are painted a contrasting color to the weatherboards. This polychromatic treatment enhances the very "American" decorative details.<sup>3</sup>

Adjacent to the front porch is a polygonal bay window with a normal-pitched tent roof with flared eaves. Lace-like brackets hang under the eaves at the top corners of the three panels of the octagonal projection. Other decoration on each panel includes a tall double-sash window surrounded on all four sides by decorative panels. The panels are offset with five-inch wide molding (of a different paint color) and inlaid with diagonal patterned weatherboard. A decorative wood square (painted a contrasting purple) ornaments the center of the patterned siding adding to the polychromatic elements of the design.

The front elevation incorporates several details to avoid flat surfaces in typical Queen Anne fashion. The recessed porch contrasts with the projecting bay window. The inlay of angled and patterned weatherboard breaks up the horizontal lines of the wall covering. The beveling of the weatherboards themselves adds texture. The dormer windows (on both side elevations) visibly interrupt the roof plane. The front window has a frequently used elaboration of adding a rectangular pane on the topside of a single large pane.

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There are three dormer windows: two projecting from the southwest roof plane and one from the northeast roof plane. The dormers are hipped and have awning windows (one-by-one). Other windows on the side elevations on the main floor are double sash (one-over-one). These windows are evenly spaced. Four windows are on the southwest elevation; two windows are on the northeast elevation with ghost evidence of a third original window (now covered with matching weatherboard). These windows have shutters attached to the siding (added for aesthetic purposes by previous non-Wilson owners).<sup>4</sup>

The doorways vary slightly, but all display similar components. The main casing is flat-surfaced molding. The principal entrances have decorative crowns. The side porch door has glazed paneling with larger panels at top. The back porch door has a large, glazed pane above three horizontal panels at the bottom.

Other porches include a recessed and enclosed porch on the southwest elevation leading in to the kitchen. The porch off of the back (northwest) elevation is a concrete slab covered by a composite shed roof (extending out from under the main hipped roof). The date "1965" is etched in the concrete.

#### **INTERIOR**

The interior functions singularly as a domestic space. There are six rooms on the main level (living room, dining room, two bedrooms, bathroom and kitchen) and three bedrooms upstairs. The front door opens to the living room (on the porch side) with a bedroom on the other side with the bay window. A doublewide doorframe connects the living room to the dining room. Next to the dining room are a second bedroom and the bathroom. The kitchen opens off of the dining room. The southwest side porch, large pantry and separate laundry room are located in the rear of the building behind the kitchen.

The staircase up to the half story is located between the bathroom and the kitchen. The stairwell shows the original lath and plaster wall finish. There are three bedrooms and access to the unfinished attic space on this floor.

The basement staircase is accessed from the side porch on the southwest elevation. The basement shows the exposed rough stone masonry (24 inches thick). The original coal firebox (still operational, but not in use), the coal pit, original iron water tank and the updated electric water tank are in the basement.

The house still has the original fireplace, hardware and windows. The fireplace in the front room of the house is set at a forty-five degree angle in the corner. Riel Wilson ordered the dark wood mantle surround from St. Louis, Missouri.<sup>5</sup> The mantle surround and the door to the basement are the only two examples of the dark wood finish that originally detailed the house. Several of the interior room doors still have the original rim locks and doorknobs. The original wood frame, double-sash windows

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Section number 7 Page 3	Name of Property _	Wilson House
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and front window are exposed from the interior. A transom window in the bathroom is still uncovered and provides light to the attic staircase.

Two periods of construction are evident in the principal massing of the dwelling. The date of the secondary construction is unknown, but did occur during Riel Wilson's ownership.<sup>6</sup> There is a break in the foundation and weatherboard where the principal roof meets the secondary roof. Early pictures printed from glass negatives show the first period of construction with the main central chimney before the second period of construction addition. The attic space in the upstairs is under the secondary roof. There is a view of the top of the back plane of the principal roof (it is framed with some sheathing still attached, but no shingles).

The basement space is under the kitchen and secondary roof. The second chimney is located at the back interior end of the first period of construction. This chimney connects to the coal firebox in the basement (and the original stove in the kitchen, which has since been updated and moved). The chimney extends up through the bathroom closet and the attic staircase landing.

Originally, the second period of construction added the kitchen (with porches to either side), the pantry and laundry room. The kitchen has since been extended to incorporate the porch on the northeast elevation. The early pictures show a windmill and water tank on the northeast side of the dwelling. These structures are no longer on the property.

Alterations to the Wilson House have been mainly additive, rather than subtractive, and for the purpose of updating the dwelling for increased efficiency. The changes match original materials, but still show evidence as to the original form (which is in accord with rehabilitation guidelines). Such changes include: the exterior, aluminum, storm windows covering the original, wood-frame windows; panels covering all but one transom window; and the back porch. A second doorway off the front porch to the bay window projection and the doorway and window from the northeast side porch (now the extended kitchen) have been closed and covered with weatherboard. The interior ceiling height was also lowered to eight feet. The original picture molding now acts as crown molding to the lowered ceilings. Between 1944 and 1946, Celotex acoustic wall covering was added over the lath and plaster finish.<sup>7</sup>

The building shows years of lived-in use, but has been well maintained. The current owners have personal interest in the property, as Mary Wilson McCoy Shrader is the granddaughter of Riel Wilson. Mrs. Shrader grew up in the house. The community also has interest in the local historical value of the property. The community helped to repaint and repair the property in 1990.8

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The Wilson House can distinctly be classified as a Queen Anne-style residential building. The identifying features categorize the building by shape subtype (hipped roof with projecting gables), decorative detailing (spindlework) and other variants (devices for avoiding flat wall surfaces such as wall treatments, porches and projections). The dwelling construction date (1903) falls within the period of peak occurrence (1880-1910). Retaining high integrity, the local historical value is evident in the community interest in the upkeep and in National Register of Historic Places designation.

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### Statement of Significance

#### **SUMMARY**

The Wilson House is being nominated at the local level under Criterion C as an excellent domestic example of the Late Victorian Queen Anne style of architecture. The building embodies typical characteristics of the style from the shape of the principal massing (hipped roof, asymmetrical front façade with a recessed porch and projecting bay window) to the decorative details (patterned stickwork on the walls and spindlework trims). The well-preserved frame structure maintains much of its historic integrity and form and continues to function as a domestic, single dwelling owned by the granddaughter of the original owner.

#### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Cambridge was established at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century with the construction of the Pacific and Idaho Northern Railroad. The P & IN Railroad was moving northward to connect Weiser, Idaho, to Helena, Montana, and adding lines to prospering mining areas. From 1900 to 1925, many small-town communities developed along railroad routes at first providing new supply centers to the railroad construction. The improved transportation helped to move people and goods in and out of the small communities.

The economic shift from logging and mining to agriculture also led to the more permanent settlement and growth of communities. <sup>10</sup> The development of Cambridge directly related to the economy of the area. The railroad struck a deal with a homesteader, J. E. Hopper, to build on his land. In 1899, construction began. January 1900, trains came rolling in to the newly founded Cambridge and businesses soon followed. <sup>11</sup> People came through the area looking for work in the mines, forests and fields. Lumber, ore and crops were shipped out to commercial centers. <sup>12</sup> Cambridge bridged the gap between the Seven Devil's mines in Hells Canyon, agriculture in the Middle Valley, and local mills to the government and commerce of Boise. <sup>13</sup>

The period of significance for the Wilson House is 1903, the building date for the dwelling. Riel Wilson built the house for his family as his career as a banker was prospering in Weiser and Cambridge. As an original homestead in Cambridge, Wilson also grew hay and grain crops on the property.<sup>14</sup> The Wilson House was a part of the growing and prospering small-town community of the early 1900s supported by the improving transportation to and business with larger city centers.

#### **ARCHITECTURE**

Riel Wilson and his wife, Etta, built the Wilson House in 1903.<sup>15</sup> The domestic, single-dwelling building embodies the Queen Anne style of architecture. Contextually, the house models the

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transformation of the west from frontier to settled communities with the expansion of railroad transportation and availability of lumber. Architecturally, the house represents a dominant American subtype of a prevalent late nineteenth-century, early twentieth-century building style. The house meets National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture as the best example of the Queen Anne style in the locality.

Queen Anne style of domestic architecture peaked in popularity from 1880 to 1910 in the United States. The style is characterized by its asymmetry and rich decorative style. A variety of shapes, surfaces and colors enrich the aesthetic appeal of the designs. Typical elements include projections (chimneys, turrets, towers and bay/dormer windows) and recesses (porches and verandas). Surface treatments (patterned siding/shingles, vergeboards, finials and polychromatic paint) also add eclectic visual appeal. Turned woodwork and spindlework (adding texture to the form) are a decorative subtype of this style. The spindlework detailing was a common American subtype. A hipped roof with a front to back ridgeline (which was the most common Queen Anne roof shape) distinguishes the Queen Anne style from other hipped-roof architectural styles with ridgelines that tended to run side to side.

The Wilson House is shaped and detailed in typical Queen Anne fashion. The roof is hipped with a longitudinal ridge. The secondary hipped roof at the back gives multiple dimensions to the main plane of the roof. Dormer windows also break up the roof plane. The front elevation has asymmetrical balance with the recessed, partial-width porch interrupted by the projecting bay window. The porch also exhibits spindlework porch supports and lace-like brackets incorporated into the spindlework frieze. The bay window exhibits horizontally patterned weatherboard insets to avoid smooth-walled appearances. The Wilson House exemplifies an American style of Queen Anne architecture, built as part of American expansion in the West.

There are no other Queen Anne-style houses in the town of Cambridge that are prominently maintained with integrity and community care. There are no residential buildings in Cambridge represented on the National Register. The Wilson House stands out as a founding homestead displaying original materials and workmanship that actualize a modest, turn-of-the-twentieth-century Queen Anne residential building at the height of its popularity.

The Wilson House, built in 1903, is a representative landmark relating to the settlement of small town Idaho at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Its location, set at the top of a prominent hill overlooking the town of Cambridge, notes the importance of this particular dwelling as the town developed.<sup>17</sup> The design exemplifies the Queen Anne style of building during the peak of popularity for that particular architectural style. The setting of the dwelling has changed since its construction, but the structure stands out among the more recent houses that now line the street. The materials largely remain

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original with few modern updates (removable, aluminum, storm windows have been added to the exterior for increased efficiency and the roof updated to composite shingle). The workmanship is evident in the detailed decorative elements typical to the Queen Anne style. The feeling of the property reflects its historical distinction as a prominent homestead as it sits back some distance from the street on the hilltop surrounded by large trees and shrubs. The association of the property directly links to the settlement and prosperous times of the town of Cambridge.

#### **Endnotes:**

1.	Ila Wilson, to "Coleman and Rosalie", 19 December 1985, transcript in hand of Ila Wilson, Mary Wilson McCo
	Shrader personal collection, Mountain Home, Idaho; Mary Wilson McCoy Shrader; Cambridge Museum.

- 2. Mary Wilson McCoy Shrader.
- 3. Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984), 268.
- 4. Ibid
- 5. Ibid
- 6. Ibid
- 7. Ibid
- 8. Cambridge Museum
- 9. Virginia and Lee McAlester, <u>A Field Guide to American Houses</u>, 263-266.
- 10. Robert Sims, untitled, in <u>The Idaho Small Town Experience: 1900-1925</u>, ed. Stacy Ericson (Boise: Boise State University Print Shop, 1981), 8.
- 11. Betty Derig, Weiser: The Way It Was (Weiser, Idaho: Rambler Press, 1987), 74-75.
- 12. Robert Sims, The Idaho Small Town Experience: 1900-1925, 13.
- 13. Cambridge Museum
- 14. Mary Wilson McCoy Shrader.

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# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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- 15. Ila Wilson; Mary Wilson McCoy Shrader.
- 16. Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses, 268.
- 17. Ila Wilson.

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

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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MB No. 1024-0018

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Section number 9 Page 2	Name of Property _	Wilson House
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### **PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION**

Wilson House
Washington County, Idaho
All photos taken by Emily Peeso
Summer, 2003
Original negatives on file at the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office

Photo #1 of 5	Context view looking northwest
Photo #2 of 5	Main elevation – view looking northwest
Photo #3 of 5	Rear façade – view looking east
Photo #4 of 5	East oblique – view looking west
Photo #5 of 5	Interior detail – original fireplace and mantel