

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

For NPS use only

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

received SEP 26 1986  
date entered OCT 23 1986

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

**1. Name**

historic Wilkerson Place Common  
and/or common Wilkerson-Dunavant House

**2. Location**

street & number Miller Hollow Road NA \_\_\_ not for publication  
city, town Wales \_\_\_ vicinity of  
state Tennessee code 047 county Giles code 055

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<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"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Richard Dunavant  
street & number Route 2, Box 256  
city, town Pulaski \_\_\_ vicinity of state Tennessee

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Giles County Courthouse  
street & number Public Square  
city, town Pulaski state Tennessee

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Giles County Survey has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes  no  
date 1978-1979 \_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local  
depository for survey records Tennessee Historical Commission  
city, town Nashville state Tennessee

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Wilkerson Place near Wales in northern Giles County, Tennessee, is a good illustration of both the vernacular Federal and Greek Revival styles of architecture. The house is on its original site at the base of the north flank of Abernathy Hill, near the confluence of Miller Branch and Big Creek, a major tributary of Richland Creek which drains most of Giles County. The six-room weatherboarded frame house was built in two stages. The older or rear section is a two-story frame section, with two rooms over two, topped by a side gable roof; no date has been satisfactorily established for this section, but it apparently dates to the 1830s or earlier. The front section, a one-story three-bay section centered on a recessed porch was added in 1857. The 1857 addition features three small pedimented gable sections with raking cornices, a dentilled entablature, and the recessed distyle porch which are indicative of the Classical Revival style that reached its high tide in the area in the years just before the Civil War. The interior is distinguished by wooden-panel wainscot in the principal rooms, original mantelpieces, floors, doors, and trim characteristic to both periods of construction.

The older two-story section faces generally north up the broad valley of Big Creek. The original main facade is three bays wide, centered on a vertical-panel wooden door opening on to an open stoop. The door is flanked by double-hung sash windows with 9/9 lights; three 6/9-light windows are on the full second floor. Just below the tin-side-gable roof is a small box cornice. The east and west walls are plain weatherboarded gable ends with exterior brick chimneys with corbeled caps. A small weatherboarded shed service area was attached to the east side in the 1940s; this unobtrusive addition, setback from the front and principal views, is the only major alteration to the exterior of the building.

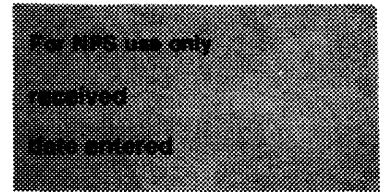
In 1857 a three-room one-story frame section was attached to the rear of the original section, creating a new front facing south towards the Miller Hollow Road, a small lane which leaves the Pulaski-Campbellsville Pike to the west of the house. This section was constructed in the Greek Revival style, each of the three sections topped by a pedimented gable with raking cornice, linked together by a dentilled entablature. The south or new main facade is centered on a distyle-in-antis porch. The recessed entry features double-leaf doors, 4-light sidelights over beveled wooden panels, and a seven-light transom. The porch walls are covered with shiplap boards. To either side of the porch are shuttered sash windows with 6/6 lights. The east and west sides of this section have a single sash 6/6-light window, an exterior brick chimney with corbeled caps, and a continuation of the main cornice.

The interior of each section of the house retains the original design elements characteristic of its period of construction. The older two-story section is arranged on a two-room-over-two plan. The larger room on the first floor has apparently always served as the main parlor. This room features beveled-panel wooden wainscot on all walls, ash floors, an original fireplace mantelpiece with a high molded shelf supported by flush paneled pilasters, and original vertical-panel doors with architrave surrounds distinguished by ball-and-target cornerblocks and fluted connecting members.

To the east of the parlor is another large room, long used as the kitchen. This room features paneled wainscoting, original mantelpiece with molded shelf, and, on the west wall, an original door matching those in the parlor. In the southwest corner is a narrow corner staircase with a simple railing supported by plain balusters. A small cupboard is located beneath the stairs.

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The upstairs of this section contains two bedrooms. Both rooms feature wainscoted walls, original doors, poplar floors, and wooden board ceilings. The bedroom to the west has a small arched fireplace with wooden mantelpiece supported by wooden brackets.

The one-story 1857 or front section of the house features a broad central hall with a large room on either side. Floors in this section are of poplar. The dining room to the east is distinguished by wainscoted walls, heavy wooden mantelpiece with corbeled shelf, vertical panel door set in a molded architrave surround, and two large 9/9-light sash windows providing ample illumination. Across the hall is a downstairs bedroom, with vertical-panel door, two 9/9-light windows, and original mantelpiece with molded shelf supported by squat pilasters.

A small early twentieth century shed or outbuilding is located to the northeast of the house in the rear yard. The small one-story structure is of weatherboarded frame construction, topped by a tin front-gable roof, with a vertical-batten door opening east to the yard. Two small one-story vertical board shed additions are joined to either side. The outbuilding is non-contributing.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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** c. 1830 and 1857 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Wilkerson Place near the Giles County, Tennessee, community of Wales is nominated under National Register criterion C for its significance in architecture. The small frame house, built in two stages, is a good illustration of both vernacular Federal and Greek Revival architecture. The earlier two-story section at the rear of the house may date to the 1830s or earlier; the front addition, built in the classical style was probably constructed in 1857. The house is distinguished by its unusual tri-gable Greek Revival facade and its outstanding interior, featuring wooden panel wainscot in the principal rooms, original mantels and doors, and other original trim.

The builder of the house is unknown. The house is known locally as the old Wilkerson Place after members of the Allen Wilkerson family, who lived in the house for over a century and are recorded as owning tracts of land in the area of the house as early as 1847. Wilkerson (1792-1850), a native of Granville County, North Carolina, was active in the Giles County area as early as the 1820s. An 1847 deed for 331.5 acres in the vicinity of the present house indicated the property was "now occupied by said Wilkerson," indicating he could have been the builder of the older section of the house. It may also have been built by other early settlers from which the Wilkersons acquired property, either John P. Taylor or Isaac and Joshua Morris. Rough metes and bounds descriptions in early deeds make it difficult to determine on which parcel of land the house was built. The house was definitely occupied by the Wilkerson family by the 1850s, who probably added the Greek Revival section. The house remained in the Wilkerson family for over a century before being sold in 1957.

Architecturally, the house is a good example of two styles of architecture. The rear or older section of the house is a two-story frame structure of simple vernacular Federal design, its three bays arranged symmetrically around a central entry, topped by a side-gable roof and featuring corbeled brick exterior chimneys on the gable ends. The front or 1857 section of the house is a most interesting addition in the prevailing Greek Revival style of the period. The one-story section consists of three rooms, each topped by a small pedimented gabled roof facing the front. The three bays are arranged around an uncommon recessed distyle-in-antis porch, and the facade is further distinguished by corner pilasters, dentilled cornice, and sidelighted entry, all characteristic of vernacular classical building. The tri-gabled front is an unusual treatment for classical buildings in the south central Tennessee region, and no other examples are known in the region. The house has one of the best interiors in the Campbellsville area for a house of its size, with wainscoted walls, original doors, mantelpieces, and original hardware and trim. The house has been restored and is well-maintained.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1 acre (approximately)

Quadrangle name Milky Way, Tennessee 58SE

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References 35° 17' 56" N. Latitude  
87° 4' 51" W. Longitude

A 

1	6										
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** The nominated property is bounded on the south by the Miller Hollow Rd., on the west by a line beginning at the junction of the house's driveway and the road and continuing north along the west side of the drive 150' to a fence; east along the fence 125' to a bisecting fence, then 150' south along this fence to the Miller Hollow Rd. This area, less than one acre, is sufficient property to protect the historical and architectural integrity of the

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries** Wilkerson Place.

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 Richard Quin, Historic Preservation Planner

organization South Central TN Development District date April, 1986

street & number P.O. Box 1346 telephone (615) 381-2040

city or town Columbia state Tennessee 38401

# 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. Huger

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 9/23/86

**For NPS use only**

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

*[Signature]*  
Keeper of the National Register

date 10-23-86

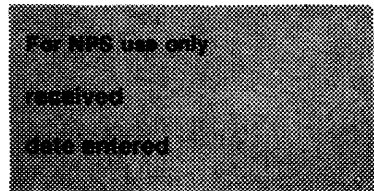
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

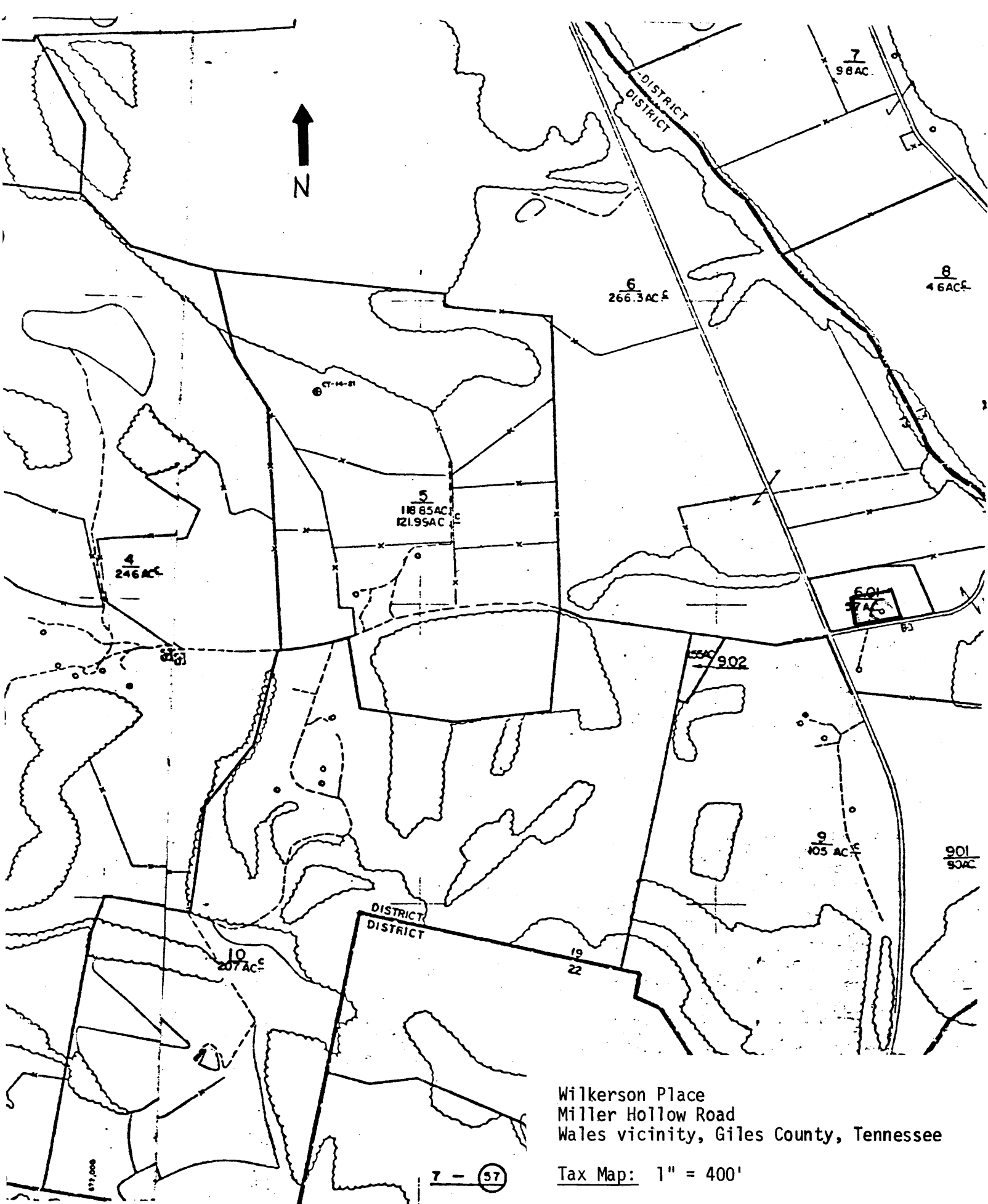
County Clerk of Giles County, Pulaski, Tennessee. Records.

Letter, John Kiser to Richard Dunavant, 12 June 1978.

Registers Office of Giles County, Pulaski, Tennessee. Deeds, bills of sale,  
and other records.

Records of Elizabeth White, Giles County Historical Society, Pulaski, Tennessee.

Inscriptions in Wilkerson family cemetery.



Wilkerson Place  
 Miller Hollow Road  
 Wales vicinity, Giles County, Tennessee

Tax Map: 1" = 400'

7 - (57)