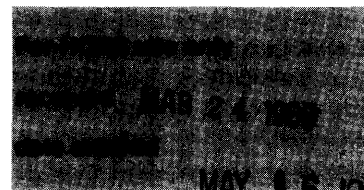


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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



MAY 16 1980

1. Name

historic Wilks Brooks House

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 2000 Old Oak Drive _____ not for publication

city, town Memphis _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district Eighth

state Tennessee code 047 county Shelby code 157

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Walter D. Wills, Jr.

street & number 2005 Kirbywills Cove

city, town Memphis _____ vicinity of _____ state Tennessee 38138

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Shelby County Registrar's Office

street & number 160 North Main Street

city, town Memphis _____ state Tennessee 38103

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Memphis Landmarks Commission has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date January 1978 _____ federal _____ state _____ county local

depository for survey records Memphis Landmarks Commission

city, town Memphis _____ state Tennessee 38103

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>1973</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Wilks Brooks House, the earliest example in Memphis of the Greek Revival Style, was built in 1835 on a 640-acre plantation thirteen miles east of Memphis. In 1973, the structure was moved a short distance to another section of the original plantation; relocation was necessary because of residential development. The house is now situated thirty feet east of Old Oak Drive on three-fourths of an acre of gently sloping wooded terrain, a site very similar to its original location.

An L-shaped two-story frame structure with a gable roof and brick foundation, the Brooks House illustrates the early development in Memphis of the Greek Revival Style, as evidenced by its symmetrical facade, trabeated main entrance and central two-tier pedimented portico. The structural configuration--which includes mortise and tenon framing, hand-split hickory lathes, corner posts, and hand wrought nails--and interior fabric--plaster made with horsehair, wainscoting and molded wood trim around doors and windows--illustrate early nineteenth-century craftsmanship. Much of this original fabric is intact; in fact, the house has undergone relatively few alterations.

The main or west facade is composed of two sections--the original two-story structure and a recently constructed one-story gable wing at the north end. Five bays wide, the original facade contains a central two-tier pedimented portico flanked by four windows in each story. In each tier of the portico there is a panelled door (double leaf in the first story, single leaf in the second story) with a multi-light transom and sidelights; across the front of each tier there were originally four fluted Ionic columns made of solid wood. The first-story columns are in storage until restoration resumes. Fluted pilasters define the central bay. The first-story windows are nine-over-six double hung sash while the second-story windows are six-over-six double hung sash. Windows have beaded wood surrounds and wood reveals. Some of the original window sashes and frames had to be replaced, but a craftsman using the original tools, which have remained in the family, duplicated the design of the earlier windows.

A plain box cornice and frieze extends across this portion of the facade. The gable roof was originally covered with wood shakes but is now tin.

The new wing on the north end of the facade contains three windows of the same configuration as those in the second story of the original section and a single leaf wood door. The wing is three bays deep.

The south elevation originally featured an exterior end brick chimney. However, the chimney was dismantled when the house was moved and the opening framed in. The bricks, which were made on the plantation, are in storage and will be reused when the chimney is restored. A pair of windows--one on either side of the ghost of the chimney--in each story is identical in configuration to those of the same story in the main facade.

The rear or west elevation is composed of three sections--the one-story gabled ell on the south end, the two-story main section and the one-story wing at the north end. A one-story shed-roof porch with chamfered posts extends along the inside of the ell and across the remaining two sections. The ell was originally one-and-one half stories, but after the upper portion was destroyed by fire, the roof was lowered.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

Access to the two rooms in the ell were provided by a door at the east end of the south wall and another in a recessed section of the west end of the north wall. The former door has been converted to a window. Two other windows are located in the ell-- one in the west wall and a second in the north wall; both are six-over-six double hung sash. A second door is located in the center of the ell's north wall.

The rear or east elevation of the two-story section contains a door on the south end, a central doorway with sidelights and, on the north end, a window opening. The second story has three window openings.

The north elevation of the two-story section was originally identical to the south elevation. However, the chimney was removed and the wing attached. All original window openings remain.

The floor plan of the Brooks House is typical of early Tennessee plantation homes. One room deep, the house has a central hall (11' x 17'4") with a doorway (6'6") at the front of each side leading to a single room (15'6" x 17'4"). To the rear of the doorway in the south wall of the hall is a quarter-turn staircase with landing. In the second story, the floor plan is the same. However, ceilings on the first floor are nine feet high while those on the second floor are eight feet high. Each room contains plaster walls, wainscoting (each width was made from a solid piece of wood), wood trim accented by square molded corner panels around door and windows, and a fireplace. One bedroom mantel and a portion of the living room mantel have been saved; both have decorative molding. It should be noted that all of this original fabric was produced on the plantation.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1835 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Wilks Brooks House, constructed in 1834-1835, is the earliest example in Memphis of the Greek Revival Style; this is particularly significant since such buildings are rare in this area--only a few remain in the city. The significance of the Brooks House is also derived from the nature and quality of the materials and techniques employed in its construction that demonstrate the various facets of early nineteenth-century building methods.

The architectural features of the Brooks House which distinguish it as Greek Revival are the two-tier central pedimented portico with Ionic columns and pilasters, the trabeated main entrance, and the symmetrical fenestration of the facade.

Much of the original fabric of the house was obtained from or produced on the site. This includes the mortise and tenon framework, lathing, doors, windows, shutters and decorative trim. Also made on the plantation were the bricks for the chimneys and foundation as well as plaster for walls and ceilings. The Brooks House, thus, provides a rare example in this area of early construction techniques.

Mr. Wilks Brooks, who built the house, came to Memphis in 1834 from North Carolina, where he had been a delegate to the 1823 North Carolina Constitutional Convention and a member of the North Carolina General Assembly. Upon his arrival in Memphis, Mr. Brooks purchased a 640-acre tract of land 13 miles east of Memphis on which he built the house. After construction was completed, Mr. Brooks brought his family from North Carolina in December, 1835. The family then moved into the house February 20, 1836. Mr. Brooks' descendants continued to live in the house until 1900; it was then occupied by tenants until 1973, when the house was moved because of residential development. Mrs. Walter D. Wills, Jr., the present owner and a descendant of Mr. Brooks, has begun restoration of the structure.

The boundaries of this nomination were drawn to the dimensions of the lot on which it now sits.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Brooks Family Bible, Property of Mrs. Walter D. Wills, Jr., 2000 Kirby Road, Memphis.
Interview with Mrs. Walter D. Wills, Jr., 15 October 1979.

10. Geographical Data **UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreeage of nominated property .7 acre **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**
Quadrangle name Germantown Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	1 6	2 4 0 4 1 0	3 8 8 8 0 2 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is an single tract of land outlined in red on the attached map.

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kay Benton
organization Memphis Landmarks Commission date October 29, 1979
street & number 22 North Front Street telephone 901/528-2834
city or town Memphis state Tennessee 38103

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hays

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 3/7/80

For HCRS use only

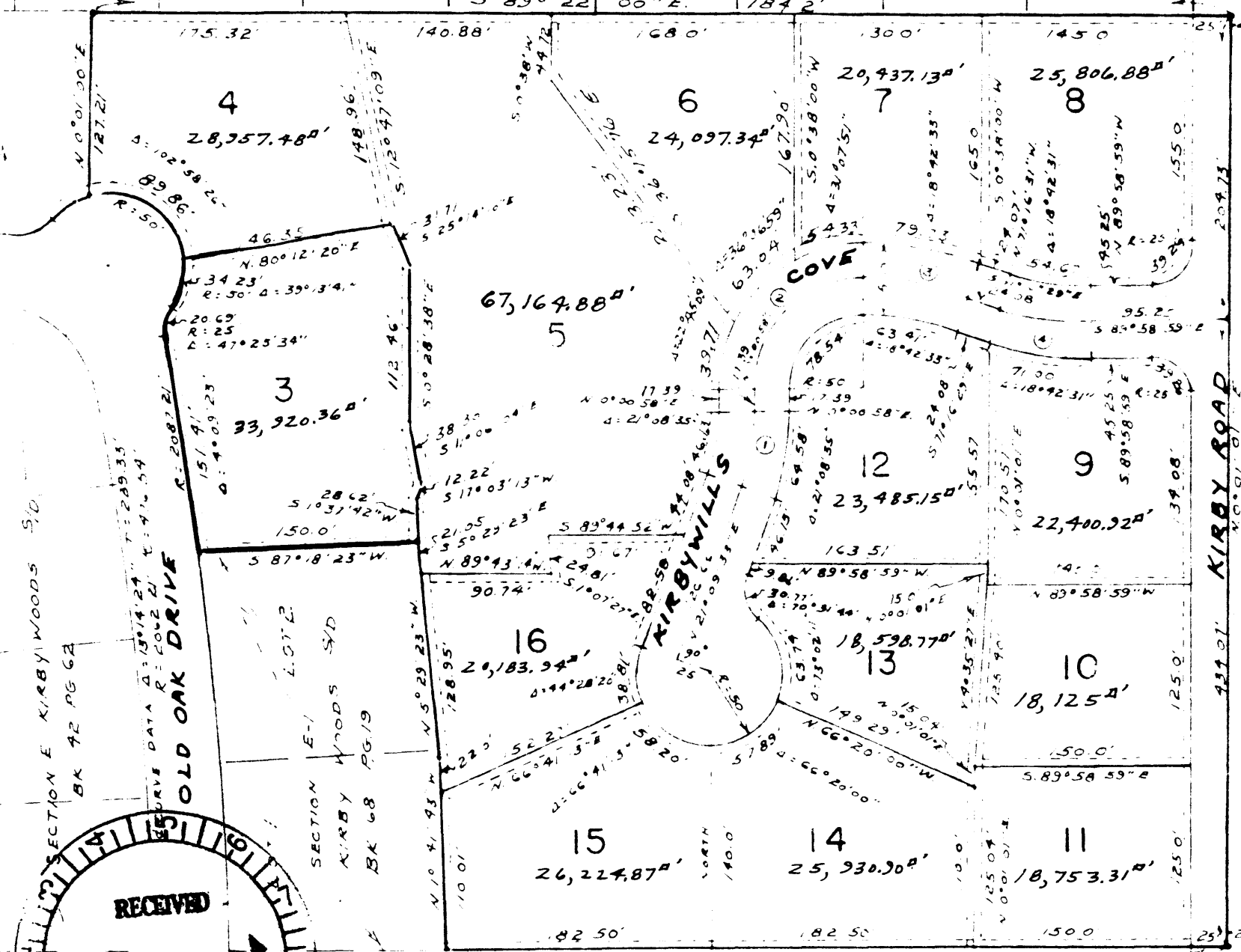
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Coral O'Sheal date 5-16-80
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Kristin O'Connell date 5/8/80
Chief of Registration

S 89° 22' 00" E. 784.2'

SHADOWWOOD LANE



1" = 100'

10-9-78