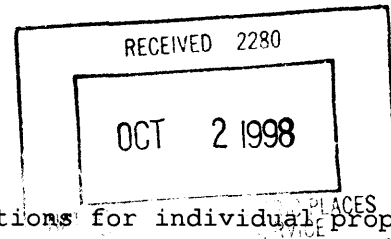


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

1293



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any 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 School

other names/site number WA-V-007

**2. Location**

street Rufus Wilson Road

not for publication n/a city or town Clear Spring vicinity x  
state Maryland code MD county Washington code 043 zip code 21722

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination     request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant     nationally     statewide x locally. (     See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

9-26-98  
Date

In my opinion, the property     meets     does not meet the National Register criteria. (     See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official                      Date

State or Federal agency and bureau



=====  
**6. Function or Use**  
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: EDUCATION Sub: school

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: museum  
=====

**7. Description**  
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

roof Metal

walls Brick

other Wood

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

=====  
**8. Statement of Significance**  
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1860-1950

Significant Dates 1860

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation n/a

Architect/Builder unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

- Previous documentation on file (NPS)
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

- Primary Location of Additional Data
- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other

Name of repository: Washington County Free Library, Hagerstown, MD

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreeage of Property 0.5 acre

USGS quadrangle Clear Spring, MD-PA

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>18</u>	<u>255220</u>	<u>4393310</u>	C	_____	_____
B	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____
	<u>See continuation sheet.</u>					

Verbal Boundary Description: Boundaries are shown on the plat which accompanies this nomination, and conform to the courses and distances indicated thereon.

Boundary Justification: The nominated property, 0.5 acre, comprises the remnant of the property with which the resource is historically associated, and constitutes an appropriate setting.

=====  
**11. Form Prepared By**  
=====

name/title Jean Crolius Ehman  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date September 1997  
street & number P. O. Box 1644 telephone (304) 876-3614  
city or town Shepherdstown state WV zip code 25433  
=====

**Additional Documentation**  
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====  
**Property Owner**  
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_  
=====

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate 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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   7   Page   7  

WA-V-007  
Wilson School  
Washington Co., MD

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Description Summary:

The Wilson School is a one-room schoolhouse, constructed 1859-60 on the historic National Road in Washington County, Maryland. It is a simple gable-fronted building constructed of brick laid in common bond on a stone foundation. It has undergone few alterations and has been restored as a local museum.

General Description:

Constructed in 1859-60, the Wilson School is located at the end of Rufus Wilson Road near the former alignment of the National Road about four miles east of Clear Spring in Washington County, Maryland. The rectangular building stands one room wide and three bays deep, constructed of brick laid in common bond above a random rubble limestone foundation. Its simple, gable-front composition reflects a vernacular interpretation of the Greek Revival style which was commonly employed for rural school buildings in the mid-19th century. Large 9/6 sash windows define the longitudinal bays, set in openings with flat brick arches and wooden sills. The entrance is located in a small vestibule which projects from the south gable end. While the masonry of the vestibule does not appear to be keyed into that of the main block, the character of the brickwork and detailing of the two elements is very similar, indicating that not much time passed before the addition of the vestibule. The entrance comprises a single door below a three-light transom. A brick exterior chimney is located on the south gable, west of the vestibule. The north gable end is unfenestrated except for a small louvered ventilator located near the peak. The west elevation is three bays wide; the northernmost bay holds a secondary entrance, probably converted from a window opening in the early 1940s in response to safety requirements, while the remaining bays retain 9/6 sash windows in openings topped with flat brick arches. The roof is covered with ridged metal, and there is a pronounced overhang at the eaves.

The interior is finished throughout in plaster above random-width tongue-and-groove wainscoting capped with a beaded chair rail. Window architraves

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   7   Page   8  

WA-V-007  
Wilson School  
Washington Co., MD

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are trimmed with simple flat boards with a beaded edge. At the north end of the school room is a two-foot-wide platform.

The building has been restored and furnished to interpret a country school of the period. A three-panel blackboard is located at the north end, and another blackboard is located at the rear of the schoolroom, east of the entrance. A pot-bellied stove is located to the west of the entrance. Furnishings include school desks representing various periods.

The Wilson School has undergone few alterations. Some repairs and repointing have been made to the limestone foundation and common bond brick walls, especially on the north elevation, and a window on the west elevation was altered to a doorway.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   8   Page   9  

WA-V-007  
Wilson School  
Washington Co., MD

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Significance Summary

The Wilson School is significant under Criterion A for its association with the early development of education in Washington County. Constructed in 1859-60 by local merchant Rufus Wilson to serve his son and neighbors' children, it was incorporated into the county's public education system in the 1890s and remained in use until it closed in 1950, the last operating one-room school in Washington County. It is also significant under Criterion C as a well-preserved representative example of a type of one-room school building typical of rural Maryland in the third quarter of the 19th century.

Resource History & Historic Context

In 1859, Rufus Wilson began building the school on property owned by the family of his late wife, Elizabeth Brewer Wilson, for his only child, John Wilson, and neighborhood children. The school opened in 1860 and remained in operation until 1950, when it was closed following the recommendations of a survey team from New York City commissioned by the county Board of Education. At that time, it was the only remaining one-room schoolhouse in Washington County, and had an enrollment ranging from Kindergarten through Fourth Grade.

Before it became part of the Washington County school system, the Wilson School was operated privately at a tuition ranging from \$20 to \$30 per term. In 1890, John D. Brewer, who had inherited the property, formally transferred it to the Board of the County School Commissioners.

The Free School system in Washington County was established in 1864 and enacted the following year by the General Assembly of Maryland. The period 1867-76 saw the greatest expansion of school building in Washington County; during this period, schools numbered 127 in all, 45 of log construction, 40 built of brick, and only six with more than one room. The Wilson School is the only example of its type in Washington County which retains integrity.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section  8  Page  10

WA-V-007  
Wilson School  
Washington Co., MD

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MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:	Piedmont
Chronological/Developmental Period:	Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870
Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:	Architecture Education
Resource Type:	
Category:	Building
Historic Environment:	Rural
Historic Function and Use:	School
Known Design Source:	None

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   9   Page  11 

WA-V-007  
Wilson School  
Washington Co., MD

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**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Washington County Board of Commissioners Minutes, 1865-1887

Washington County Land Records

Register of Wills, Washington County

Second Annual Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and reports of the President of the Boards of County School Commissioners for the period ending June 30, 1867. Annapolis: Wm. Thompson of R., printer, 1868.

Hewitt, Downs and Louise, "Washington County Retired Teachers," ms., n.d.

Bushey, George M., "Schools in Washington County Early 1900s," ms., 1902.

Williams, Thomas J. C. History of Washington County, Maryland. Orig. pub. Hagerstown, MD, 1906; rpt. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co, 1968.

Scharf, J. Thomas History of Western Maryland. Orig. pub. Philadelphia, 1882; rpt. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co, 1968.

Taylor, Gladys R. and Leona Robinson, "Wilson School," ms., ca. 1940.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 12

WA-V-007  
Wilson School  
Washington Co., MD

**NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARIES**

