

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name J. Woodrow Wilson House
other names/site number Wilson-Vaughan House, Hostess House

2. Location

street & number 723 West 4th Street N/A not for publication
city, town Marion N/A vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Grant code 053 zip code 46952

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: _____
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Richard Hartz for J. M. Riderson 6/23/88
Signature of certifying official Date
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered 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.
 other, (explain:)

Richard Hartz Entered in the National Register 8-11-88

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic - Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Social - Clubhouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Georgian revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concretewalls Brick

roof Slateother

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Wilson-Vaughan House is prominently sited on a main thoroughfare in an urban, residential section of Marion, Indiana. The main facade with the principle entry faces north onto West Fourth Street. There is also a side entrance on Garfield Street. An alley lies immediately behind the house. The yard is landscaped with a hedge bordering the property and has several trees in the front and side yard with a patio on the east side off the side porch.

In massing and detail, the home has most of the elements associated with the Georgian Revival style. The blocky, symmetrical main facade is Georgian in character, as are the robustly proportioned classical details of the exterior and interior.

The main block of the house is a tan brick, two and one-half story rectangular structure resting on a concrete foundation (photo 1).

The main facade faces north and is dominated by a two-story pedimented, wooden, tetra-style, Scamozzi Ionic portico. The columns have attic bases, fluting and ornate Scamozzi Ionic capitals with egg and dart moldings. The columns support an entablature and pediment. The entablature has a plain frieze and a molded cornice with plain, large scale modillions. The pediment has a raking cornice matching that of the main cornice. An oval oculus with a molded surround is centered in the tympanum.

This portico is attached to the house by two pilasters which are identical in detail to the columns. The tan brick house has a wooden main entry centered in the north facade. The entry consists of a single leaf, multi-light door with a semi-elliptical transom and side lights, simple pilasters divide the door and sidelights.

Above the main entry, a wood balcony with decorative iron railing extends from the exterior walls to the two central columns of the portico. The platform of the balcony is finished with an entablature on its exterior faces. The entablature has finely scaled dentils and a molded cornice. This balcony is accessible from the house by a pair of multi-light French doors.

Flanking either side of the main entry and balcony doors one finds three bays of fenestration on each floor. On the ground floor, these openings have limestone sills and blind semi-circular arches above. The arches have brick radiating voussoirs and dressed with limestone springers and keystones with channeled margins. The tympanums have header brick infilling and a limestone lozenge is centered in each arch. A rowlock course lintel rests above the six-over-six double-hung sash windows.

See continuation sheet

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On the second floor, the windows retain the same sash type and sill, but a flat arch of gauged brick with channeled margin limestone "springers" and a keystone are substituted for the blind arches.

A composite entablature of wood and brick continues the moldings of the portico across the facade. The cornice and modillions are identical to those at the portico, but a wood, molded belt course continues the architrave, which is separated by a portion of brick wall from the cornice. This composite entablature is used around the entire two story portion of the house.

This two story block is terminated by a truncated hip roof covered in slate. Two symmetrically placed dormers are found on the north facade. The dormers are pedimented and have four-light windows.

The west facade faces Garfield Street and is less formal in character than the principle facade. A side entry provides the main focus for the west facade (photo 2). The entry is sheltered by a one story, flat-roofed portico with two Roman Doric columns. The entablature has simple moldings and the portico has two pilasters which match the columns in detail. The doorway has a single-leaf "Bible" door with a semi-elliptical transom and side-lights.

To the north of this portico on the ground floor are two evenly spaced windows identical to the first floor windows of the north facade. South of the portico, there are five window openings. A modified Palladian window encompasses the three middle windows. The modified Palladian window consists of a six-over-six window with a blind arch, similar in detail to the first story main facade windows, flanked by two four-over-four double hung sash windows with sailor course lintels. There is a square limestone block at the upper left of the left window and a block at the upper right of the right window. A narrow, multi-paned window with a limestone sill and rowlock course lintel is found on either side of the modified Palladian window.

The second story of the east facade is completely symmetrical in design. This story has five bays of windows, all identical to the second floor windows of the main facade. The central window has a lintel at the same height as the other windows, but the opening is smaller and more squarely proportioned.

The west facade roof has two symmetrically placed pedimented dormers identical to the main facade dormers. A large flush chimney stack rises to the north of the dormers. It is tan brick with a limestone cornice molding.

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A one story brick section extends to the south of the west facade. The one story extension has the same brick and foundation as the rest of the house. An offset, large square multi-paned window is the only opening on the west facade of this section. A stove pipe vent runs through the sash. The window has a flat arch lintel identical to those of the second story. The one story extension has a composite entablature similar to the main block of the house, with a separate wood belt course and a simple box cornice.

The east facade of the Wilson-Vaughan House is asymmetrical in composition. Two bays to the north have the usual window details common to each story.

To the south, one finds a one-story wood, arcaded sunroom with a flat roof. The sunroom is entered from the east through a pair of French doors. The arcade has Roman Doric engaged columns. Full story height paneled Doric pilasters mark the corners of the structure. There are entablature blocks over the pilasters with triglyphs and blankmetopes. The pilasters are doubled on the east facade at the sunroom, with single pilasters on the north and south corners of the structure. Each arch has a panel below a pair of six-paned fanlight. A cornice with modillions is carried around the entire sunroom.

Above the sunroom, a band of multi-paned casement windows creates a horizontal opening. The opening has a sailor course brick lintel with limestone corner blocks.

The roofline of the east facade is a mirror image of the west facade roof, with a chimney to the north of two pedimented dormers.

The south facade is the rear elevation of the house, and is informally organized (photo 4). A one story extension is located on the western half of the south facade. The west facade of this extension has been described. On the south facade, the left side of the extension has a large opening with a sailor course lintel infilled with a large square multi-paned window, flanked by a multi-paned door with a short transom on the right and a plain door with a large six-light transom on the left. To the right of this grouping are two windows identical to those used on the second floor of the main facade. A louvered vent has replaced the upper sash of the right window. A belt course and cornice, as previously described, complete the extension.

Continuing to the east on the first story, one finds three evenly spaced windows identical in design to the second floor main facade fenestration treatment. Further to the east are two bays of a wooden sunroom extension

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which has been described. One bay of wood detailing is attached to the house, while the other bay extends beyond the main block.

The second story of the south facade is divided by a square exterior chimney stack. To the left of the stack, above the one story extension, are a window identical to those of the second floor on the main facade and a triple set of paired French doors, with a single sailor course lintel.

A large, round arched window is centered on the second story just to the right of the chimney stack. The arch is defined by rowlock brick voussiors; channeled limestone springers and a limestone console keystone. The multi-paned sash has a round fanlight.

Four evenly spaced bays of fenestration, with details matching the second floor main facade windows, completes the second floor of the south facade.

The entablature of the south facade matches those of other elevations, but it is interrupted at one point and has been removed in one section. The chimney breaks the beltcourse and passes through the soffit but does not disturb the cornice moldings. The chimney has a stone cornice. The cornice and beltcourse have been cut under the easternmost dormer to accommodate a metal fire escape. The date of this alteration is unknown. The roofline of the south facade has three symmetrically placed pedimented dormers which match those on other elevations.

The interior of the Wilson-Vaughan House is organized around a large central hall oriented north-south with one side hall on the first floor. In general, the interior is well preserved. For example, most of the wall sconces are original.

The Georgian Revival detailing and character of the exterior is carried through to the spacious interior of the Hostess House. The main entry is from the north facade. A small vestibule with French doors, multi-paned sidelights and a semi-elliptical fanlight leads into the central hall of the first story (photo 5). The vestibule entry has a handsome surround with paneled Doric pilasters, a molded arch and a paneled keystone. This type of surround and transom is common to most of the hall doors. The hall has hardwood floors, as does the entire house. Walls in the hallway have paneled wainscoting, a molded chair rail and a wood cornice.

A spacious formal parlor is found immediately east of the hall (photo 14). One enters the room from the hall through a typically detailed doorway with French doors. The walls of the parlor have a plain wainscot, a baseboard with a molded upper edge, a molded chair rail and a dentiled cornice. There are three windows on the north wall, two on the east wall

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and a pair of French doors on the south wall. A massive mantelpiece is centered on the east wall. The fireplace has a black and white marble veneer on the hearth and opening. The mantle shelf is supported by two large consoles with acanthus leaf decorations. The consoles are enriched by fruit garlands, both consoles have different garland designs. The mantle shelf is paneled and has a cornice molding. The overmantle extends to the ceiling and has a rectangular mirror flanked by two narrow mirrors. The cornice breaks to follow the projecting breast and overmantle. The ceiling of the parlor is coffered in star shapes. The ceiling coffer moldings are plaster.

The library is found across the hall from the parlor, in the northwest corner of the house (photo 13). The library has a baseboard similar to that of the parlor, but there is no chair rail. The walls have a cornice similar to that of the hallway. The north wall has three windows, the west wall has two windows and a paneled Bible door with a molded surround which leads to the side hall is found on the south wall. On the west wall, a semi-circular arched niche is centered between the windows. The niche has a molded wood surround with a flat keystone and paneled springers. The convex niche shelf is supported on an acanthus console. The library ceiling is coffered with curvilinear plaster forms. An oval molding is divided by curving moldings and radiating lines of a tulip or lotus flower-like molding. A circular molding has a flower medallion in the center of ceiling. Towards the corners of the room, along the edge of the oval, hang four chandeliers. The ceiling corners are defined by curvilinear floral ornaments.

The dining room is located south of the parlor and is accessible from the central hall or the parlor. The dining room walls have a baseboard, chair rail, plain plaster wainscot and a cove entablature. There are two windows on the south wall, one door on the west wall to the hall and pantry, French doors leading to the parlor on the north and French doors with side lights in modified Palladian window arrangement on the east wall. The east wall doors have a semi-elliptical fanlight. The dining room ceiling has a large plaster medallion with a raised, circular molding with recessed light receptacles and a floral decoration in the center.

The modified Palladian doorway leads to the sunroom (photo 7). The floor of the sunroom is tiled. Five paired casement windows with semi-circular transoms open into the sunroom. Below the windows is a paneled wainscot. Two ornate metal chandeliers hang from the otherwise plain ceiling of the sunroom.

A kitchen occupies the central rear portion of the first floor. The kitchen can be entered through a butler's pantry underneath the main stair

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case.

A small room toward the southwest corner of the house was originally used as an office. The room corresponds to the modified Palladian window visible on the west facade. Two small one-half bathrooms are located to the north and south of the office.

One may ascend to the second floor of the Wilson-Vaughan House by using the main stairs or by a rear dog-leg staircase with winders, located in the kitchen, which reaches the second floor and attic level.

The main staircase is a principle element of the interior (photos 10 and 11). The stairs are designed around an open well with two flights. The stair rail wraps around the turned starting newel, which is surrounded by turned balusters. The stair rail terminates with a goose neck at the landing. The newels of the landing area are square, paneled and have cornice-like caps. A large window with a round arched transom is centered on the landing. The stairs turn for a short flight to the second floor. The handrail again has several goose necks for this short run. From the final newel, the stair rail follows the graceful curve of the second floor landing.

The paneled wainscoting of the first floor hall is continued around the staircase and up to the second floor landing

A wide elliptical arch with consoles marks the second floor landing. The front east room of the second floor was the sitting room and this has a fireplace with pilasters and panel moulding, and a tiled hearth and surround. There is a cornice moulding at the ceiling line. The center front room was the dressing room which has an angled doorway, from the sitting room, with a three-way mirror. French doors lead to the second story front porch, and opposite is a door leading to the hall. On the west wall is a door leading through a full bath, with original tub, shower and pedestal sink, to the master bedroom. There are two corner bedrooms to the rear of the house and a small room behind the back stairs leading to the kitchen and third floor ballroom. Baths are at either end of the hallway.

The attic has a ballroom with a small theatre and side wings with triple arches (photos 8, 9 and 12). The oculus window centered in the rear of the stage corresponds to the exterior main facade pediment. The front of the stage bows out with vertical siding. Concealed floor sockets operate the footlights. There are two servant rooms with built-in drawers and a full bath on this floor. Small storage rooms open from the dormer areas under the hip roof. Narrow stairs lead up to a small storage area.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Commerce

Period of Significance

1912-1916

Significant Dates

1912

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Wilson, J. Woodrow

Architect/Builder

Plato, Samuel M.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Wilson-Vaughan, or Hostess House, is an outstanding residential structure for Marion both in size and architectural merit. It was constructed in 1912 during the early career of black architect Samuel M. Plato, who would later make a contribution to towns and cities across the United States through his post office and housing designs. It is one of the only single family residential structures confirmed to have been built by Plato. The Neo-Classical style house has local importance as the home of J. Woodrow Wilson, who made considerable business investments in Marion between 1887-1916, and his wife, Peggy. Her second husband, Dr. John Colin Vaughan, also made contributions to the city through community services and private philanthropies. For the past thirty-eight years the house has been owned by Hostess House, Inc., with a majority of members being local residents.

The house is an excellent example of the Georgian Revival style which was popular in the domestic architecture of this country from 1900-1920. The use of classical details within this style is seen in the full-height entry porch with its pediment and gable roof supported by colossal Ionic columns. The cornice line has uncut modillion blocks and the pediment has an oculus window. The fifteen room house is one of the largest residential structures in Marion. The size could be compared to the Swayzee-Erlewine-Love home constructed in 1850, north of Marion's downtown. In its own residential area, which contains a mixture of late-nineteenth to twentieth century structures, the Hostess House is extremely ornate and imposing as compared to its neighbors.

Samuel M. Plato was born in Alabama and was educated at the State University of Kentucky. He arrived in Marion during the first decade of the twentieth century to begin his career in architecture, many times acting as both contractor and architect. One of the early projects of Plato was the construction of the brick No. 2 Schoolhouse in the black community of Weaver, a short distance southwest of Marion. The school operated until 1945 and was later razed in 1977. This black community flourished in the 1870's and 1880's when the population reached 1,000. Gradually the younger men and families left the farmlife behind and moved to Marion for better jobs. This was especially true in the 1920's when factories began hiring blacks. In addition to the Hostess House, Plato is known to have built, in Marion around 1910, the Platonian Apartments (Adams and 15th Street); Elam Paper Company (300 block of West Second Street); Rutenber Electric Plant (Branson and Clark Streets), which now houses Active Products; Second Baptist Church (1800 block of Branson); and the First Baptist Church (4th and Nebraska), which spans a creek. This same church design was repeated several times by Plato, with two buildings

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Whitson, Rolland Lewis. CENTENNIAL HISTORY OF GRANT COUNTY, INDIANA 1812-1912 Vol. 1
Chicago & New York: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1914.
National Register Nomination: Broadway Temple A.M.E. Zion Church, 662 South 13th Street,
Louisville, Kentucky, 1980
Ray, Amelia. "Samuel Plato". NEGRO HISTORY BULLETIN, December 1946, pp. 51-71.
"Retrospective V" Marion National Bank of Marion, Annual Report, 1976.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:

"J. Wood Wilson Dies," THE MARION CHRONICLE, October 21, 1916.
"J. Wood Wilson is Dead After Short Illness" LEADER TRIBUNE, October 21, 1916.
"City Pays Tribute to J. Wood Wilson" THE MARION CHRONICLE, October 23, 1916.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

A

1	6	6	1	2	5	9	0	4	4	9	0	2	8	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Whites 4th ADD Lots 61 and 62

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This is the historic boundary of the poperty.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Katherine M. Jourdan
organization Historic Landmarks Foundation - East Office date January 22, 1988
street & number P.O. Box 284 telephone 317/478-3172
city or town Cambridge City state Indiana zip code 47330

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in Louisville, Kentucky, having been placed on the National Register: Broadway Temple A.M.E. Zion Church (662 South Thirteenth Street) and the James Lees Memorial Church (1754 Frankfort), which is in the Clifton Historic District. It is unconfirmed that Plato constructed several other residences in Marion but these suspected sites include: 502 Whites Avenue, and a house two doors from the Hostess House at 809 West 4th Street.

Plato left Marion about 1914 and returned to Louisville, Kentucky, where he died in the mid-1960's. Besides the churches which he designed and constructed, Plato was responsible for Steward Hall at Simmons University (1924); and 88-unit housing project constructed as housing for Curtis Wright Defense Plant during World War II, which is now called Fincastle Heights Mutual Ownership Corporation; and over forty post offices across the country.

Plato worked in Marion at a time when blacks were beginning to make their mark in professional positions despite racial restrictions and prejudice. Later he was one of the first blacks to be awarded a federal post office contract and one of the few blacks to receive a defense housing contract during World War II.

The Hostess House is of local historical significance since it was built by J. Woodrow Wilson, a prominent businessman in Marion's history. Although Marion was established in 1826, the town grew slowly until natural gas was discovered in 1887. Then in five short years the town went from 3,800 residents to 18,000. Wilson moved to Marion in 1887, when the natural gas boom attracted new businesses to the area. In partnership with his brother-in-law, John Lewis McCulloch, Wilson founded the Marion Fruit and Jar Company in 1888, which produced the Dandy Oil Can and the Mason fruit jar. The company expanded several times until it was the second largest bottle manufacturing company in the country. In 1904, the two partners sold all of the manufacturing plants to the Ball Brothers Corporation, of Muncie, Indiana.

In addition to the bottling company the partners became one of the largest oil producers in Grant County before selling to the Oil Producers Company of Cleveland, Ohio, around 1906. Eventually they established the Marion National Bank in 1905, with McCulloch as president, and J. Woodrow Wilson as vice-president. Upon his death in 1916, Wilson was still active in business and civic affairs. Besides his position at the bank, Wilson was also president of the Marion Paper Company, Marion Bench and Cabinet Company, and the Rutenber Electric Company, as well as being a stockholder in other financial insitutions.

Wilson and his wife, Lillian Pampell Wilson, were married in 1911, with the house being constructed as a wedding gift by J. Woodrow Wilson. The couple lived together in the house four short years until Wilson's death at the age of 62. His widow Peggy, who was thirty-three years younger, later divided her time between the house in Marion, and the social circles of New York and Chicago. One renowned acquaintance known to have visited the Marion home between 1919-1921 was Edgar Lee Masters, a lawyer turned poet, whose published "Spoon River Anthology" had made him a celebrity. Masters later published a poem entitled "Peggy" in the September 1926 issue of THE OVERLAND MONTHLY and also

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devoted a section of his book MIRAGE (1924) to Mrs. Wilson. In his autobiography ACROSS SPOON RIVER (1936) Masters refers to Peggy as a "Magic princess" and calls the Marion mansion "the sleeping palace".

Mrs. Wilson married Dr. John Colin Vaughan, a prominent surgeon, in 1926. The couple continued to divide their time between Marion and New York. Dr. Vaughan became involved to the community affairs of Marion and was a heavy contributor to charity organizations, such as the Community Chest, Salvation Army and Boy Scouts. Dr. Vaughan had spent his early years as an explorer, being a packer for the Smithsonian Institutes expedition to the cliff dwelling ruins of Colorado, and making the overland trek through the Northwest Territory to Alaska in 1898 in search of gold. He also served as Second Assistant Surgeon on the Ziegler Expedition to the North Pole in 1903-05, when the party was marooned for nineteen months. His medical career included being a instructor of surgery at the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University in New York; served as chief of the Vanderbilt Clinic; and from 1914-22 was visiting surgeon to Sing Sing Prison.

The crash of the stockmarket in 1929 effected the lives of the Vaughan's in that Dr. Vaughan was forced to take up a practice with Dr. Merrill S. Davis, in Marion. The furnishings were sold from the house and eventually it was closed when the Vaughan's moved to New York around 1936. It was there that Dr. Vaughan later died in 1940. The house stood vacant except for a short period during World War II when it was rented.

Hostess House Inc. was formed in 1950, by a group of local women to purchase the home as a woman's center. The house is maintained by memberships. In the past the third floor of the house was used for ballet classes and by the Marion Civic Theatre who staged productions there. The basement at one time was also used as the Hostess House Nursery School. The house continues to be used as a women's center and as a rental facility. The Mississinewa Arts Council formed the Arts and Humanities Committee to develop cultural activities such as art shows, musicals, lectures, workshops, exhibitions and other gala events to be held in the Hostess House, and to have the building open to the public on a regular basis.