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Wilmer House	Cowley County, KS
Name of Property	County and State
8. Statement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria	Areas of Significance
(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the	(Enter categories from instructions)
property for National Register	
	ARCHITECTURE
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.	a an
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	
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	1917
<b>D</b> Property has yielded, or likely to yield,	
information important in prehistory or history.	
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Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Dates
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Narrative Statement of Significance	
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more	Unknown
continuation sheets.)	
9. Major Bibliographical References	
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Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested	Other State agency
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Cowley County Historical Society; Winfield Public Library

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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

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 1

Wilmer House Winfield, Cowley County, KS

#### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

#### Overview

The Wilmer House (1917), built in 1917 is located at 1310 East 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Winfield, Cowley County, Kansas. The house is oriented to the south, facing 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Highway 160). It is situated on the east five feet of Lot 22 all of Lot 23 and the west 15 feet of Lot 24 in Block 21 of Central Park Addition. The site dimensions are 70 X 140. This encompasses 9800 square feet. It is bounded by a concrete driveway to the west that goes the length of the property and leads to a single-car garage (c. 1917) situated alongside an alley. The alley runs along the north side of the property, and another residence that is located directly to the east.

The three story side-gabled frame house is clad in wood clapboard with shingles added for detailing above the bay window on the south side of the house and above the screened in porch on the southeast corner. It sits on a foundation of concrete with limestone fronting the street. The foundation encloses a full basement as well as a small cellar for storing canned items. The house is massive in size and features eaves that extend from the third story on all four sides of the house. The eaves that extend from the screened in porch are also very deep. The house retains all of its original wood windows, which are oneover-one double hung, framed with simple wood molding. The roof is asphalt shingles. These shingles were replaced in 2000. The chimney that juts from the third floor is red brick and is not visible from the street.

#### South façade

A stoop fronts the house on the southwest corner. It is composed of four concrete steps supported by large limestone. The roof of the stoop is made up of asphalt shingles that were replaced in 2000. Two large triangular brackets support the roof. Deep eaves continue the theme on the roof of the stoop. The front door with its original hardware remains. A new wood frame screen door made by the current owner fronts it. Due to their nonstandard size, the owner made all screens on the façade as well as the west side and the screened porch. To the right of the stoop is a large double hung bay window. It is surrounded by sidelights. Screens front these windows. Above the bay window are decorative painted shake shingles. Four triangular brackets support the bay window. To the east of the bay window is the front of the screened in porch. It extends out from the house to the south, west and east. Limestone corners and woven red bricks support it. Two sections of screening make up the west wall of the screened porch. Three sections of screening make up the south side of the porch. A wooden railing encircles the outer edge inside the screens. An asphalt-shingled roof with deep eaves provides protection from the elements. The second level of the facade has two double hung windows that face the street. Both windows are fronted with screens. To the east of these windows is a recessed sleeping porch. The south side of the porch features two large double hung windows. These windows also feature screens. The sleeping porch has a flat roof, which has been sealed. An air conditioner unit sits on top of this roof. It provides air

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conditioning for the second and third floors of the house. The third floor of the house features three connected double hung windows. Large deep eaves protect the windows.

#### West elevation

A concrete driveway bounds the west side of the house. The house features one rectangular single-pane window at basement level. This window is on the southwest corner of the house and is fronted by a screen. The second window on the northwest side of the basement level is covered and contains cable and plumbing equipment. It also has a screen. The first level of the house features a leaded glass window on the southwest corner. The entrance to the house on the west side features the original door with a single pane window. The doorknob on this door is original to the house and is unlocked with a skeleton key. A screen door fronts the door. A double hung kitchen window is located on this side of the house. The second floor of the house features two double hung windows. Deep eaves extend out from the third floor on the west side of the house extends back just to the northwest of the kitchen window located on the first floor. A small study is located in this area. It is supported by a concrete foundation. A single six-over-six window is located here. The study is one level and features an asphalt roof that was replaced in 2000. An air conditioner unit for the main floor of the home is located below this window.

#### North elevation

A concrete foundation supports the study on the north side of the house. It is solid with no windows. Below it is the cellar used in the past for canned goods. A single double hung window-facing north is featured just before the extending out of the study. A single pane window is located on the east facing side of the foundation as well as another that is located on the north side of the foundation. Neither of these windows can be seen due to the construction of the deck.

The north elevation of the house on the first floor features two six-over-six windows with a third six-oversix window on the east side of the study. Screens front all these windows. A deck and set of French doors added by the owners in 2001 complete the first floor of the main house. The deck goes around the corner of the northeast side of the house. A screened door leading into the screened porch is located there. A small-screened section to the east of the door is also in this location. The sleeping porch is directly above the screened in porch. A single double hung window that is part of the sleeping porch is located on the north side of the house. Painted shake shingles located above the screened in porch and below the sleeping porch add detailing to the north as well as the east side of the house. The third floor features a single double hung window that is protected by the same deep eaves that are on the other sides of the house.

#### East elevation

The southeast corner of the house features the longest side of the screened porch. Limestone corners and woven red bricks support it. Six sections of screen makeup this side of the porch. In all there are four

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Wilmer House Winfield, Cowley County, KS

large square columns that support the roof. Above the porch on the east side are painted shake shingles. These cover wide eaves that keep all but the strongest of winds and rain off the porch. The second floor of the east side has three double hung windows that form this side of the sleeping porch. Screens front these. There is one other double hung window on this side of the house. The third floor has one single paned window that is tucked up under the eaves. This is the smallest side of the third floor.

Interior

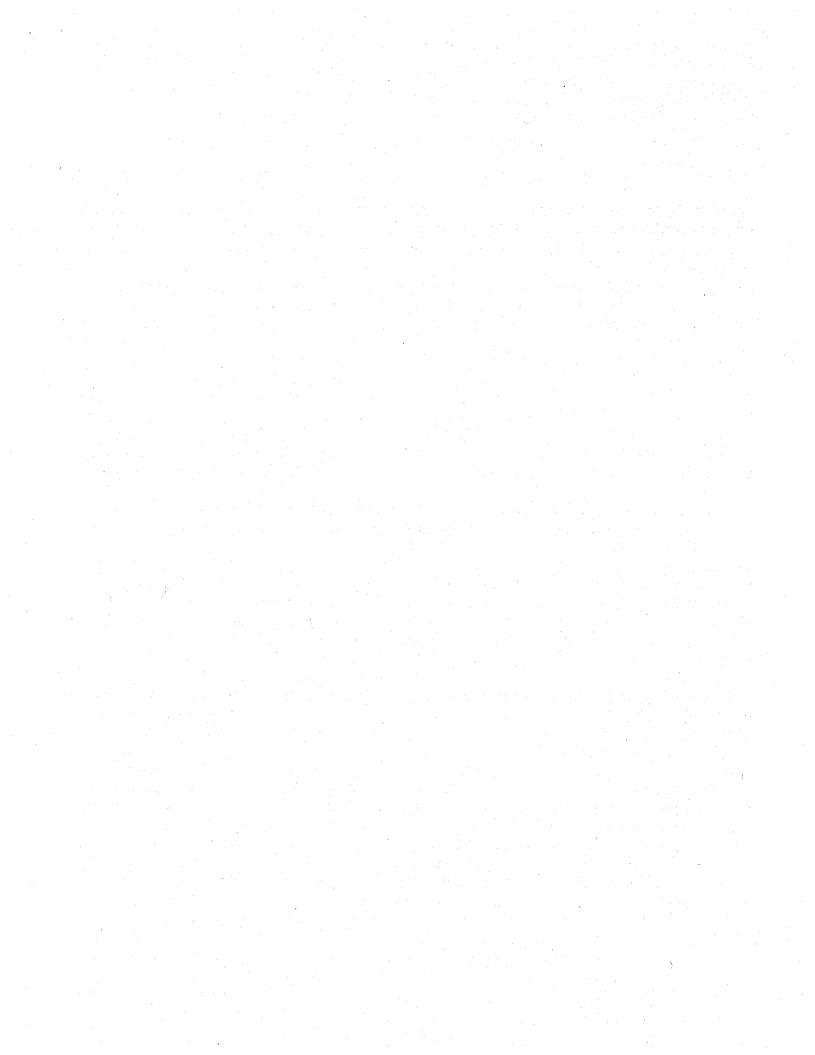
The interior of the Wilmer House retains most of its original finishes. Oak woodwork retains its original stain and finish, plaster walls remain and original oak floors are present. All windows and doors with the exception of the French doors that were added in 2001 are original to the house. New plumbing and electricity have been added to the house. Central heat and air were added in 2000. The house retains its original working boiler and radiators.

The basement is accessed through the door on the west wall of the house and/or through the kitchen. Painted wooden steps lead down to the concrete slab floor that makes up the entire basement. The first room of the basement houses the original boiler. The asbestos covered boiler is wrapped to prevent harm.

All walls are plaster except a small portion of the north wall, which is part of the fireplace. Within this wall is a chute that allows the owner to clean the soot out of the fireplace by sweeping it down into the opening that is located directly under the gas starter in the fireplace located in the living room. There is evidence of a coal chute on the west wall that has been filled in. Passing through the doorway another room is entered that is approximately the same size as the first. It houses the furnace and laundry facilities for the house. Located on the north wall of this room is a large double sink that is original to the house. Going through a second doorway is a small shelf-lined room used for storing canned goods by the original owner.<sup>1</sup>

The first story of the Wilmer House has four rooms plus a <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> bath, large coat closet with original built-in bookcase and a screened in porch. All woodwork, unless noted is very plain wide oak. One enters through the foyer in the southwest corner of the house. The entrance includes the original oak door with two small beveled windows located at the top. An original leaded glass window is located at the foot of the staircase to the second story. Just below this window is a radiator. The east wall is the backside of a built-in oak bookcase. It is one of two located in the main room of the house. The main stairway is located directly ahead. It features original oak stairs with a solid wall of oak to the east of the stairs <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of the way up and topped with an oak baluster. The floors of the entire first floor are original oak. There is a large built-in window seat under the windows that face to the south. It is made of the same oak. Directly across from the window seat is the red brick fireplace. It is simple in design with a narrow oak mantel. The west side of the fireplace features a large solid oak door with original swinging hardware. This door allows access to a narrow hallway. Within this hallway is a large coat closet with deep storage. It also features a deep oak shelf that is original to the house as well as several hooks around an oddly

<sup>1</sup> Dale, Ann. Now-deceased granddaughter of Dr. F. M. Wilmer.



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	Wilmer House
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placed window that looks out into the stairwell of the basement. This window is placed directly behind all hanging coats. Hooks continue across an oak strip on the north wall of the coat closet. Located directly across from the coat closet is a large built in bookcase that reaches all the way to the top of the 9foot ceiling. It features the original hardware and door fronts. Located just below this bookcase is a small oak trimmed door. It has the original turn knob and allows dirty linens from the kitchen to be sent down to the laundry room in the basement. Plain wide oak trim continues down this hallway. Just to the north of the coat closet is located a second set of stairs. These narrow oak stairs lead to the second floor landing where they join the original staircase. To the east of the fireplace is the second of the oak built-in bookcases feature glass front doors and original shelves and hardware. The mantel continues across the top of this bookcase forming a divider between the living room and the dining room.

The living room has the original decorative ceiling with large rectangles formed with shallow beams painted white. The east side of the living room features the original door that allows access to the screened in porch. There is also a radiator located on this wall just south of the door to the porch. The porch features the original floor, bead board ceiling, railing and columns. The screens have been rebuilt. Located on the north end of the screened in porch is an original oak door that leads into the dining room.

The dining room features a large built-in leaded glass front china cabinet along the west wall. Also on the west wall is another solid oak swinging door. It too has the original hardware. When both these doors are closed the kitchen is shut off from guests. Oak floors continue throughout this room with the same plain wide oak trim. The south wall of the dining room features the backside of the solid oak bookcase that is a part of the living room fireplace. The east side of the dining room features three connected double hung windows that are outlined in wide plain oak. A wide finished oak plank is along the bottom of these windows. This can be used to place food on for serving. A radiator butts up against the north wall. The north wall is made up of the set of French doors, which were added in 2001. These allow access to the deck. There are also two slender pipes that run up the north wall to transport hot water from the boiler located in the basement. The ceiling of the dining room features large unpainted oak beams that form 9 squares. These squares cover the length and width of the room.

Continuing north through a walnut trimmed doorway that also features the original walnut door, on the west is a <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> bath with a built in shower. The bathroom features black and pink art deco tile. It too has an original walnut door and hardware. The shower is built in using the same tile that is found in the bathroom. The ceiling is plaster. This doorway also allows entry into the study. The story goes this is where Dr. Wilmer saw patients. Research shows that although Dr. Wilmer may have had a study here his actual practice was located above the Courier Building and the First National Bank building in downtown Winfield.<sup>2</sup> A visiting granddaughter also stated that the walnut wood was from the family farm outside of town. A family member supposedly milled the wood and used the room at some point in time as a bedroom.<sup>3</sup> The small room features the original bead board ceiling, walnut trim around the bottom border of the room and a floor to ceiling walnut bookcase with doors on the south wall. The west wall features

- <sup>2</sup> City directories for Cowley County, Kansas for 1902-2000, on file at Cowley County Historical Society.
- <sup>3</sup> Dale, Ann. Now-deceased granddaughter of Dr. F. M. Wilmer.

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Wilmer House Winfield, Cowley County, KS

one six-over-six window with original trim. The north wall features two six-over-six windows. The east wall has one of the six-over-six windows as well as a radiator. It is unknown what the original flooring was. Currently the floor is linoleum.

Returning to the dining room to the west through the doorway with the swinging door you enter the kitchen. The kitchen was totally remodeled in 1997. New oak cabinets and a curved breakfast bar were added. The west wall has two narrow pipes that carry the hot water for the boiler. There is one double hung window on this wall as well as upper and lower cabinets. The south wall features the built-in breakfast bar. On the east side of the kitchen is the swinging door referred to earlier, that allows entrance into the dining room. A refrigerator is also located on this wall. The north wall consists of upper and lower cabinets, a Formica countertop, sink and a single double hung window. Linoleum was put down on the floor several different times. In 2006 all the linoleum was removed and the original oak wood flooring once again became the floor.

The second story of the Wilmer House consists of a central landing that leads to three bedroom spaces, a linen closet, a door to the attic and a bathroom. All bedrooms contain closets. The woodwork and the doors in the central landing are oak. Each door has cut glass doorknobs and the original hardware. All the trim in each room on the second story is oak. It has been painted white. The house's master bedroom is located on the south side. It has wide oak trim, painted white, two closets and two double hung windows over looking the street. There is a radiator in the southeast corner. The room is large and travels the width of the house. It contains the same oak flooring that is found on the first level.

To the east of the master bedroom is the sleeping porch. Six double hung windows make up the walls of this room. Two connected windows face south; three connected windows face east with the sixth window facing north. There is a window on the north wall that looks into the northeast bedroom. The trim in the room is wide oak and is all painted except for a three foot section on the west wall that contains penciled names and heights of the Wilmer's children, grandchildren and their friends dating back to 1917. The room is carpeted. The northwest bedroom has the same woodwork and flooring as the master bedroom. The radiator is located in the northwest corner of the room.

The northeast bedroom also features the same painted woodwork and original oak flooring. The south wall features a built in mirror that is original to the house and a double hung window that looks into the sleeping porch. The radiator is located in the northwest corner of this room. The landing features the same painted oak trim as well as a door to the laundry chute. The linen closet is also located here. The bathroom is located in the northeast part of the house. It features the original subway tile, oversized bathtub, wall mounted sink and toilet. These fixtures are all white porcelain. There is a radiator located on the east wall. On the west wall of the landing is a door that allows access to the attic.

A narrow flight of oak stairs goes up and turns south for entrance into the attic. It has a closet as well as storage under the east eaves. The attic travels the length of the house. It has wide oak trim that is painted and the same oak flooring. The ceiling is sloped to follow the roofline of the house and is plaster. The walls are also plaster. Along the south wall of the attic is a built in area that houses the ductwork for the

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Wilmer House Winfield, Cowley County, KS

central heat and air. There are no radiators in this room. The granddaughter of Dr. Wilmer, Ann Dale told of many cold Christmas Eves spent sleeping in the attic waiting for Santa to arrive. The current owner uses the attic as a family room.

Garage (c. 1917)

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A single car garage is situated parallel to the alley north of the house. It features a gable roof with wide overhanging eaves and a pronounced cornice. The gable ends feature rounded eaves within the cornice return. The garage is sided in clapboard and features a single garage door on its west elevation.

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Wilmer House Winfield, Cowley County, KS

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

#### Overview

The Wilmer House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B for its associations with prominent local physician and Criterion C for its representation of the Arts and Crafts style. Dr. F. M. Wilmer came to Winfield in 1903. He limited his medical practice to eye, ear, nose and throat. In 1946 Dr. Wilmer was honored by the Cowley County Medical Society and presented with a gold key in recognition of his 50 years in the practice of medicine.<sup>4</sup> Dr. Wilmer took an active part in the civic life of Winfield. He was a member of the Chamber of Commerce, the First Methodist Church, the county and state medical societies and the American Medical Association. Dr. Wilmer was also the organizer and host of an annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade held yearly for the children of the neighborhood. He was considered somewhat of a parade expert due to the number of events he had witnessed and participated in while residing in St. Joseph, Missouri.<sup>5</sup>

The Wilmer House is also being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of architecture. The house is an excellent example of a vernacular interpretation of the Arts and Crafts style.<sup>6</sup>

#### Person of Significance

The person of significance is Dr. F. M. Wilmer. Dr. Wilmer was born in Shelby County, Illinois December 17,1871. Early in his life he decided to become a physician. He attended the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Chicago, graduating in 1896. He did general practice in Southern Illinois prior to his coming to Winfield. Dr. Wilmer served his internship at Chicago Eye and Ear hospital. He came to Winfield in 1903 and limited his practice to eye, ear, nose and throat. He occupied only two offices in Winfield during that time. His first suite was in the Courier building where he remained until 1916. He then moved to a suite in the First National bank building. Both of these buildings are located in downtown Winfield. In 1946 he was honored at a dinner of the Cowley County Medical society. At this dinner he was presented a gold key in recognition of his 50 years in the practice of medicine. Dr. Wilmer took an active part in the civic life of Winfield. He was a member of the Chamber of Commerce, the First Methodist Church the county and state medical societies and the American Medical association. The doctor was well known in his neighborhood for hosting 4<sup>th</sup> of July parades for his children as well as the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Courier Newspaper, 23 June 1948.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Courier Newspaper, date unknown, random clipping from Winfield Public Library.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> For information on the Arts and Crafts movement, see also: Gustav Stickley, *Craftsman Bungalows: 59 Homes from the* "*Craftsman*" (New York: Dover Publications Inc., 1988).

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Wilmer House Winfield, Cowley County, KS

neighborhood children. Following each of these celebrations he and his wife would serve refreshments on their front lawn.<sup>7</sup> At the time of his death Dr. Wilmer was one of the oldest physicians in Winfield.

### Architecture

The Wilmer House is also nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE. The house is significant locally as an excellent example of early 20<sup>th</sup> century residential architecture. The house has changed very little since construction. It retains an exceptionally high degree of integrity.

The house has elements of Craftsman influence in the use of triangular brackets, thick square columns on the porch, numerous windows, leaded glass, built-in cabinets, beamed ceilings and dark wood. The house emphasizes simple form and natural materials.<sup>8</sup> The house also incorporates Prairie School Style elements in the use of wide eaves, enclosed rafters and horizontal rows of windows.<sup>9</sup> It emphasizes horizontality found in the Prairie style through extremely wide eaves. Rows of tripartite windows are found in the attic, sleeping porch and dining room. The house is significant locally as a combination of several styles popular at the time of construction (1917). It is a tribute to the skilled craftsmen of the area.

The Craftsman Style of early twentieth century residential architecture was the result of many convergent tendencies: the rise of the middle class; the proliferation of the democratic ideal; the increase in individual home ownership; a growing interest in nature and natural living; and the American Arts and Crafts movement, which recognized and adapted itself to all of these tendencies.<sup>10</sup> Stickley gained rapid popularity around 1905. He published a monthly magazine that featured many of the elements found in the Wilmer House. His publication and style lost favor in the 1920s. The Prairie and Craftsman styles share many common elements, including wide eaves, gabled dormers, a prominent interior hearth and simple moldings.

## History of the House

The house at 1310 East 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue was built in 1917 for Dr. F.M. Wilmer and family. Dr. Wilmer had two children a son Morrell and a daughter Josephine. The large house was often a site for entertaining as noted in the Courier.<sup>11</sup> In addition to hosting 4<sup>th</sup> of July parades Mrs. Wilmer held various club meetings at the home.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Courier Newspaper, date unknown, random clipping from Winfield Public Library.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> See also: Mary Ann Smith, Gustav Stickley The Craftsman (New York: Dover Publications, Inc. 1983).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1995).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> See also: Gustav Stickley, *Craftsman Bungalows: 59 Homes from the "Craftsman"* (New York: Dover Publications Inc., 1988).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Courier Newspaper, date unknown, random clipping from Winfield Public Library.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Maxine Medley, oral history of the home and owners, June 2007.

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Wilmer House Winfield, Cowley County, KS

Dr. Wilmer arrived in Winfield in 1903. His mother joined him here. Together they resided in two different residences. The first was located at 1505 Millington in Winfield. The second residence was located at 1210 East 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue also located in Winfield. The doctor and his mother resided there until 1910.<sup>13</sup> The city directory shows that in 1910 Dr. Wilmer's mother resided at 1210 East 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the Doctor had a home at 1510 East 9th Avenue. In 1912 the directory makes mention of Martha as the doctor's wife. (Martha was born March 5,1880. Place of birth is unknown.). In 1917 the directory shows that Dr. Wilmer and his wife Martha resided at 1310 East 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Two children were born to this marriage: Morrell a son and Josephine a daughter. They are not mentioned in the directory until 1933 and then are listed as high school students.

Dr. Wilmer passed away on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1948. Martha stayed in the house until the time of her death February 19,1964. The Wilmer family owned the house for forty-seven years. In 1965 Mack and Karen Summers purchased the house. They resided there for 15 years. Mr. Summers was the Vice President-Treasurer of First Community Federal Savings and Loan. They left the house in 1981. A directory for 1982 was not available. In 1983 Reverend George and Linda Kemp purchased the house. He was the pastor at the First Christian Church located in Winfield. They resided in the house for 8 years from 1983-1991. In 1992 Richard and Marilyn Phillips purchased the house. He was a salesman for Reliable Drugs. They resided in the house from 1992-1994.

In 1995 the city directory states: "not verified". It is assumed the house was vacant for a portion of 1995.

In 1996 Craig Goodwin purchased the house. He was a missionary and left Winfield for Romania in 1998.

In 1998 Rodney and Paula Wood purchased the house. They are responsible for the remodeling of the kitchen and the picket fence that borders the back yard. They resided in the house from 1998-1999. In 1999 Elvin and Dana Bailey purchased the house. The Bailey's were the owners that installed central heat and air. They resided at 1310 East 9<sup>th</sup> for 1-½ years leaving in May of 2000. On Memorial Day, May 2000 William, Wendy and Hattie Burton moved into the house. They are the current owners.<sup>14</sup>

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> City Directories for Cowley County 1902-2000 on file at Cowley County Historical Society, Winfield, Kansas.
 <sup>14</sup> Ibid.

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Property Name City, County, KS

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Wilmer House is located on the east 5 feet of lot 22, all of Lot 23 and the west 15 feet of Lot 24 in Block 21 of Central Park Addition. The property is bounded on the south by 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue (U.S. Highway 160) to the west by a concrete driveway that runs the length of the property, on the north by a public alley, and on the east by a private residence.

## **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundaries include the remaining city lots associated with the Wilmer House.

## PHOTOGRAPIC INFORMATION

Property Name: Wilmer House Location: 1310 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Winfield, Cowley County, KS Photographer: Sarah J. Martin Date: 10 August 2007 Location of Digital Images or Negatives: Kansas State Historical Society

- Photo 1: South (front) elevation showing driveway to the west, facing N
- Photo 2: South elevation, front entrance, facing N
- Photo 3: South elevation, bay window, facing N
- Photo 4: South elevation, screened porch at southeast corner, facing N
- Photo 5: East (side) elevation, facing SW
- Photo 6: North (rear) and west (side) elevations showing driveway along west side of house, facing S
- Photo 7: Garage, southeast corner, facing NW
- Photo 8: Interior, living room looking toward entrance, facing SW
- Photo 9: Interior, dining room, facing SW
- Photo 10: Interior, built-in leaded glass front cabinet along the west wall of dining room, facing SW
- Photo 11: Interior, kitchen, facing W
- Photo 12: Interior, basement, facing E
- Photo 13: Interior, decorative leaded glass window near front entrance, facing SW
- Photo 14: Interior, second floor landing, facing W
- Photo 15: Interior, attic room, facing S
- Photo 16: Interior, front entrance, facing S