UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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X_UNALTERED __ALTERED

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Woodrow Wilson Boyhood Home is a two-story brick building with a one-story entrance porch supported on slender Tuscan columns. Regularly spaced rectangular windows rest on white stone lintels and are crowned by similar stone caps. Similar windows in the gables of the end walls light the attic under an A-line roof. Two molded brick chimneys above either end wall reflect the four-room central hall plan. Notable features of the building include the finely crafted red-brick walls of the exterior and the hand-planed wooden floor boards of the interior.

The broad proportions of the mass of this building, and some of its detail, such as the precise white window trim in red-brick walls and the low profile of the A-line roof are reminiscent of the earlier Jeffersonian classical styles which were characteristic of the south. The generously proportioned six over six light windows, however, support the c. 1840 date attributed to the structure by several sources.

The original brick kitchen is two-story and has been annexed to the left rear corner of the house with a frame room joining them. In the northwest corner of the lot stands the old brick two story carriage house.

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8 SIGNIFICANCE

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

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SPECIFIC DATES

PERIOD

c. 1840

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Woodrow Wilson Boyhood Home is an interesting mid-nineteenth century classical revival structure which is significant because it was the boyhood home of the twenty-seventh president of the United States. Located diagonally across the street from the First Presbyterian Church where Wilson's father was the pastor, the manse establishs an historical continuity with the outstanding earlier church structure and enrichs the center city environment of which it is a now a part.

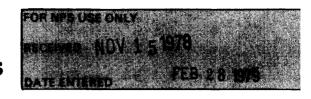
When the Reverend Joseph R. Wilson was installed as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in January of 1858, he moved his family, including his small, two-year old son, Thomas Woodrow, from Staunton, Virginia to Augusta. During the years 1858 to 1870 while Wilson was pastor, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States was organized in Augusta with Dr. Wilson as Permanent Clerk of the Assembly. In the summer of 1863, Dr. Wilson, acting under the Board of Home Missions, served as army chaplain and during the fall of that year his church was used as a hospital. In 1870. Dr. Wilson resigned his charge to accept the chair of Patoral Theology in the seminary in Columbia, South Carolina. The period between 1858 and 1870 during which the young Wilson grew to fourteen years of age in the manse on Seventh Street, must have been impressionable years upon the future president. Woodrow Wilson himself suggested this in later years when, in a speech on Abraham Lincoln in 1909, he said, "My earliest recollection is of standing at my father's gateway in Augusta, Georgia, when I was four years old, and hearing someone pass and say that Mr. Lincoln was elected and there was to be a war. Catching the intense tones of his excited voice, I remember running in to ask my father what it meant". The manse into which the young boy ran was described in 1927 by one of Wilson's biographers, historian Ray Stannard Baker. Inside of the substantial brick building, he pointed out, was a broad hall with a formal parlor full of prim furniture to the right and the minister's study to the left. The boy's own room, he said, was a large cool room with a high ceiling located at the top of the stairs in the back of the house. These spaces can still be seen in the extant building.

Two of the young Wilson's closest friends, according to several sources, were the sons of another minister who lived in the interesting red-brick Italianate style residence that still stands next door to the former manse. One of these, Joseph Rucker Lamar, subsequently was appointed to the Supreme Court by President Taft and later named to an international commission to adjust differ-

9 MAJOR	BIBLIOGRAPHI	CAL REFER	ENCES		
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



CONTINUATION SHEET Significance

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ences between the United States and Mexico by President Wilson.

It is important to preserve the place to which the vivid recorded memories of Woodrow Wilson's boyhood accrue. In addition, the boyhood home of this important United States leader makes a forceful impression on its now urbanized setting. Wilson's biographer, Ray Stannard Baker, emphasized this impression when he reported that the home "...bore itself with the distinction and solidity befitting its position." Even though the large, sheltering trees and wider set-backs which Baker found there on his visit to Georgia in the twenties, are no longer distinguishing features of the scene, the exceptionally well-crafted red-brick walls and sharply contrasting white wooden and stone detailing of this house convey an impression of stability on a now crowded and busy corner.

This building has recently been sold. The new owners are restoring it and plan to open it as a historic site.

TELFAIR St.

CARRIAGE House DRIVE BRICK Kitchen (Now Attached) Poll House FRAME Connecting Room MAIN House

7th ST.