NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

1. NAME
COMMON: Rudisill-Wilson House

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: 2 miles south of intersection at Startown
CITY OR TOWN: Newton vicinity
STATE: North Carolina

3. CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY (Check One):
☐ District
☐ Site
☐ Building
☐ Object
☐ Structure
☐ Private
☐ Public
☐ Other

OWNERSHIP:
☐ Public
☐ Private
☐ In Process
☐ Being Considered

STATUS:
☐ Occupied
☐ Unoccupied
☐ In Process
☐ Preservation work in progress

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC:
☐ Yes:
☐ Restricted
☐ Unrestricted

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. Samuel F. Keener
STREET AND NUMBER:
Route 1, Box 279
CITY OR TOWN: Newton

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Catawba County Courthouse
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: Newton
STATE: North Carolina

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY:
DATE OF SURVEY:
☐ Federal
☐ State
☐ County
☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN:
STATE:
The Rudisill-Wilson House is a two-story, three-bay, central hall plan dwelling covered by molded siding. The frame house rests on a high stone foundation. At the north and south ends are exterior chimneys of brick laid in Flemish bond. A shed porch with late nineteenth century brackets, turned posts, and balustrade extends across the main (west) facade. The windows of the main block have three-part Federal architraves with molded sills; much of the nine-over-nine sash of the first floor and nine-over-six sash of the second floor appears to be original. The six-panel front door, surmounted by a four-light transom, has flat panels and its original hardware. This arrangement is repeated at the rear doorway of the central hall, though the door lacks original hardware. At the front and rear of the main block are simple molded box cornices with pattern boards adorned with a tiny truncated pilaster. The main block is one room (two bays) deep, with shed rooms, contemporary with the main block to the rear. The roof line of the shed rooms at either end extends unbroken across the length of the rear facade, originally leaving the central area open to form a porch. This was enclosed at a later time to form a third room. Originally the shed rooms had chimneys on their exterior and walls, but these were recently removed.

The wainscot in the first floor hall has a molded chair rail over vertical flat panels. A molded wooden cornice separates the plastered walls from the flush sheathing of the ceiling. Six-panel doors with panels raised on fillets lead to the flanking parlors which are finished like the hall. The handsome three-part Federal mantel in the south room is the largest and most elaborate in the house. Its molded shelf is vertically reeded and breaks out over the center tablet and end blocks, each of which is ornamented by a sunburst in relief. Bands of diagonal reeding occur above and below the frieze. Pairs of slender, reeded, engaged colonnettes support the entablature at either side of the fire opening. The mantel in the first-floor north room is smaller but takes the same form. It lacks sunbursts and has less elaborate reeding patterns. A large six-panel door with panels raised on fillets, near the rear of the hall, opens through the north wall to an enclosed stair which rises through the north room to the second floor. The walls of the second floor have horizontal flush sheathing above and below a small molded chair rail. Both second-floor rooms have Federal mantels similar in form to that in the first floor, north room, but are much less elaborately decorated. Some of the original hardware is retained on the second-floor doors. A small door to the rear of the second floor, north room, leads to the attic crawl space of the shed portion. In this area a good view of the structural timbers with their nogging can be observed.
### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Rudisill-Wilson House, one of the earliest houses in Catawba County, is remarkable for its retention of original fabric including hardware and interior Federal trim. The architectural sophistication of the detail is unusual in this up-country area.

The house was originally the residence of Michael Rudisill, a member of one of the numerous German families which came to the area from Pennsylvania. He was probably the son or grandson of an earlier Michael Rudisill whose daughter was married to Johann Gottfried Arendt, the "first resident minister west of the Catawba River."

Michael Rudisill, Jr., obtained a marriage bond in 1817. In the tax lists of 1818 and 1819 he is not shown as the possessor of any land, but in 1821 he is shown as the owner of two tracts, the latter of 251 acres the higher valued and therefore probably containing his house, completed by that year. In 1837 Rudisill had 275 acres worth $2,475, and three slaves. In 1855 he sold this tract, then containing 284 acres, to Ezekiel Wilson for $3,000. When this transfer occurred the old Andrew Wilson home on the adjacent tract was evidently abandoned in favor of the Rudisill homestead. This house thus became identified with the Wilson family and attracted to it the name of the earlier Wilson settler. The agricultural schedule of the 1860 United States Census shows an Ezek [sic] Wilson the holder of 300 improved acres and 500 unimproved, the whole valued at $9,000. The house was allotted to Wilson's widow, Sarah, in 1877 and was lived in by members of the Wilson family until 1949. It is now owned by Samuel F. Keener of Newton, North Carolina.
### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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**APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:** 9.9 acres

**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

**FORM PREPARED BY**

**NAME AND TITLE:**
Survey and Planning Unit

**ORGANIZATION:**
Office of Archives and History

**STREET AND NUMBER:**
109 East Jones Street

**CITY OR TOWN:**
Raleigh

**STATE:**
North Carolina

**CODE:**
37

### STATE LIASON OFFICER’S CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 90-151), 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

- [ ] National
- [ ] State
- [x] Local

**Name:** H. G. Jongs

**Title:** State Historian/Administrator

**Date:** 5 July 1973

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

**Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation**

**ATTEST:**

**Keeper of The National Register**
Rudisill-Wilson House
Newton vicinity
North Carolina

Catawba County Highway map
Scale: 1" : 2 miles
Date: January, 1962

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<tr>
<th>Latitude</th>
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Latitude: 35° 36' 58"
Longitude: 81° 15' 23"