

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Edgecombe	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Wilkinson-Dozier House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
East side of S.R. 1526, 0.8 mi. south of S.R. 1524

CITY OR TOWN:
Conetoe vicinity
Second Congressional District
The Hon. L. H. Fountain

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Edgecombe	CODE 065
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. Earl Roberson

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 5

CITY OR TOWN:
Conetoe

STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Edgecombe County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Tarboro

STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Frances Benjamin Johnson Collection--LC-J7-NC No. 2357-2362

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936
 Federal
 State
 County
 Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
East Capitol and Independence Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: D. C.	CODE
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Wilkinson-Dozier House is a traditional Federal farmhouse distinguished by a handsome double portico and unusually elaborate interiors. The two-story frame house stands high on a piers of brick (later infilled). The main block is three bays wide and two deep, and at either end is an exterior chimney of brick laid in Flemish bond, with single smooth shoulders. The windows, which contain nine-over-nine sash at the first level and nine-over-six at the second, are framed by molded architraves and very handsome molded sills. The original section is covered with molded weatherboards. The facades terminate in a rather deep molded cornice with a narrow course of diagonally aligned dentils resembling a stylized cable; the cornice returns slightly into the gable ends. Corner posts are treated as pilasters.

Dominating the facade is a tall, rather delicate double portico, with attenuated columns resting on well-modeled bases and terminating with neckings. These carry a simplified entablature at each level and are connected by a light balustrade consisting of a molded rail above airy latticework of simple Chinese Chippendale design. The tympanum features a molded lunette with keystone, now filled in with siding. The cornice outlining the pediment is quite elaborate, featuring heavy moldings, a narrow band of the diagonal dentil, and handsome undercut modillions. The first-story entrance sheltered by the porch is a single door flanked by fluted pilasters which carry a molded cornice with vertical gougework; the cornice extends across the lintel and breaks out to serve as pilaster caps. From these caps springs a molded arch with a heavy band of cable molding, framing a fanlight with delicate tracery. The wall area sheltered by the porch is flush-sheathed. The second-level entrance has a simple molded frame.

It appears that originally the house consisted of the two-story front block and a rear shed extension. The south part of the shed extension survives, including a double-shoulder brick chimney, its second shoulder rising above the roofline. To the rear of the south chimney of the main block is a small pedimented projection, now enclosed; it was once a secondary porch. At the rear of the house and at the north side, there are an assortment of later one-and two-story additions of considerable size but not immediately visible from the front of the house.

Although the plan of the interior and the stair have been altered somewhat, most of the original fabric remains intact. Evidently the front section originally followed a hall-and-parlor plan with two rear-shed rooms flanking a central shed porch. Now there is a center-hall plan with the Victorian era stair rising in the area between the shed rooms. Consistently used are a handsome flat-paneled wainscot with well-molded baseboards, and doors with eight panels raised on molded fillets. Also consistent is the use of full-blown Federal mantels and other ornament, featuring a wealth of variously used reeding.

The north room, originally the largest, is the most elaborately finished. It features a richly reeded three-part mantel. The paired, engaged, turned colonnettes are spiral-reeded, the members of each pair having the spiral turning in opposite directions. These carry an architrave of vertical reeding, above which is three-part frieze. The end blocks and center

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tablet are outlined with a cable molding and feature three-dimensional sunbursts. The intermediate areas of the frieze are also outlined by the cable and are filled with reeding in a horizontal chevron pattern. Above this, the molded cornice rises above a band of reeding arranged in diagonal blocks. In this room, the chair rail features blocks of vertical reeding, and the walls are plastered above, terminating in a cornice of undercut modillions.

The south room has slightly simpler finish, with a standard flat-paneled wainscot and no cornice. The mantel, however, is quite ornate. Pairs of vertically reeded pilasters flank the fire opening; between the members of each pair is reeding in a vertical chevron pattern. The frieze follows the same pattern and ornament as that in the opposite room, except that it lacks the cable molding and the end blocks have vertical fluting and the center tablet features a handsome fan motif. The mantels in the rear shed rooms are much smaller, but have similar proportions and feature the same densely applied reeded ornament. The second-floor finish is similar to that of the first, with flat-paneled wainscots having the chair rail serve as windowsills. The mantels feature various combinations of reeding and paneling on pilasters and frieze.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1815 to 1830

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wilkinson-Dozier House is an excellent example of the sophisticated vernacular late Federal architecture that flourished in eastern North Carolina in the early nineteenth century. The two-story frame plantation house, of simple traditional form, is distinguished by the graceful and impressive two-tier portico (a feature unusual in the state) with its simplified Chinese Chippendale balustrade, and by the remarkably lavish reeded ornament of the Adamesque interior woodwork.

Local tradition claims that the house was constructed about 1826 for Silas Wilkinson--a date compatible with the style of the house. It is also possible, however, that the dwelling was built for Silas's father, Joshua, as much as a dozen years earlier. Joshua, born in 1756, was a large landowner and by 1815 a wealthy widower with nine children. In June of that year he married Mildred Edmundson, a local widow also with children of her own. Their marriage contract specified that Wilkinson was possessed of "a large and valuable personal estate," and that the property of each party was to go to the respective children of their previous marriages. It is possible that Joshua had built the present house before or during this marriage and that it was part of the property he devised to his son Silas--"the land and plantation whereon I now live," along with all other property not disposed of. Upon Joshua's death in 1818, Silas was only fifteen years old. A curious feature of Joshua's will specified that Mildred, the second wife, was to have a room in the house until a small house could be built for her on another tract of land.

Silas married Sally Jenkins on September 23, 1822, and he began acquiring land near his inherited tract soon after 1826; he continued expanding his holdings until 1834. It is not certain whether the present house was built for his father and inherited by Silas or built for Silas sometime in the 1820s. In 1827 Silas made the first of a series of land sales to Frederick Jones: he sold in that year a small tract "in Conetoe pocoson;" in 1830 he sold him 205½ acres on Bally Hack Swamp, and in 1836, before departing the county, Wilkinson sold Jones for \$10,000 his remaining estate of 1,300 acres on Conetoe Creek and Bally Hack Swamp.

Frederick Jones, son of a Revolutionary soldier of the same name, was a prominent citizen of the county; with his brothers he was an incorporator of Columbia Academy, a notable local private school. Following Jones's death before 1840, his widow, Sarah, and their five children held the

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estate in common until 1855 when William A., presumably the eldest child, received his fifth portion. The estate was divided in 1866, and Catherine Jones Dozier received the part containing the dwelling house. She and her husband John Henry Dozier had lived in the house with her widowed mother since their marriage in 1855. John Henry Dozier died July 3, 1889, and Catherine died three days later. Following their deaths, the estate was inherited by their son Frederick Jones Dozier, who lived there until his death in 1939. The place was inherited by his daughter, Katherine Dozier Barnhardt, who sold the house with two acres to Earl Roberson in October, 1973. Mr. Roberson is in the process of restoring the dwelling for use as his home.

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9.

Johnston, Hugh B. Jr. Interview, August 4, 1974.

Roberson, Earl. Interview, August 4, 1974.

Turner, J. Kelly, and Bridgers, John L., Jr. History of Edgecombe County.
Tarboro, 1919.

Williams, Ruth Smith, and Griffin, Margarette Glenn. Bible Records of Early
Edgecombe. Rocky Mount, 1958.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research by John Baxton Flowers, III, survey specialist; architectural description by Catherine W. Cockshutt, survey supervisor.
 DAR Roster of Soldiers from North Carolina in the American Revolution. 1932
 Edgecombe County Records, Edgecombe County Courthouse, Tarboro, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate papers, Census records, Marriage records).
 Edgecombe County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate papers, Census records, Marriage records).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE					
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds			
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	35°	51'	52"	77°	26'	13"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Survey and Planning Unit

ORGANIZATION: Division of Archives and History DATE: 20 September 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), 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 Local

Name Robert E. Stipe

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date 20 September 1974

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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