United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name ____________________________ Wilson Log House
other names/site number ____________________________ Wilson, Jerry, Log House

2. Location

street & number ____________________________ W side SR 1621, 1.4 mi NW of jct w/SR 1620
city or town ____________________________ Highlands
state ____________________________ North Carolina
county ____________________________ Macon
code ____________________________ NC 113
zip code ____________________________ 28741

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally, statewide, or locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title ____________________________
Date ____________________________
State of Federal agency and bureau ____________________________

In my opinion, the property meets or does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title ____________________________
Date ____________________________
State or Federal agency and bureau ____________________________

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:) ____________________________

Signature of the Keeper ____________________________
Date of Action ____________________________
Wilson Log House

Name of Property

Macon Co., NC

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)
- ☑ private
- ☐ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)
- ☐ building(s)
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributing</th>
<th>Noncontributing</th>
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Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic and Architectural Resources of Macon County, North Carolina, 1826-1945

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
- DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
- WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
- Other: single-pen log cabin

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
- foundation: Stone
- walls: Log
- Weatherboard
- roof: Metal
- other: Stone
- Wood

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
Wilson Log House
Name of Property

8. Statement of Significance
Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- 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.
- 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 distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:
- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References
Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of repository:
Western Office, Division of Archives & History
Asheville, NC
Wilson Log House
Name of Property

Macon Co., NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property  less than 1

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1
2
3
4

Zone
East
Northing
Zone
East
Northing

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title    Laura A. W. Phillips, Architectural Historian
organization N/A                                    date September 29, 1997
street & number 637 N. Spring Street               telephone 910/727-1968
city or town Winston-Salem                          state NC         zip code 27101

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

date 910/727-1968

name Richard Woodruff
street & number 4695 Northside Drive               telephone 404/255-5353

city or town Atlanta                               state GA         zip code 30327

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

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.
Located southwest of Highlands in the mountainous backcountry of Macon County, the Wilson Log House is a single-pen log cabin dating from the late nineteenth century. It stands on a rise above unpaved Hickory Gap Road (SR 1621), encompassed by a rectangular yard of approximately three-quarters of an acre. Bounded by the road, old fence lines, hedges, and a stream bed leading from a spring at the yard's southwest corner to the road, the nominated property is picturesquely surrounded by meadows, woods, and nearby mountains. The visible mountain tops at this location do not appear especially high, but that is only because the site itself has an elevation of approximately 4,000 feet. No other houses or other buildings are located within sight of the Wilson Log House, and save for a power line that runs to a pole in the back yard, the sense of peaceful rural isolation is complete. (The owner plans to have the power line on the property placed underground.)

Measuring approximately eighteen by twenty feet, the one-room-with-loft house is built of wide, half-dovetail-notched logs resting on a fieldstone foundation. Most of the original red clay chinking has been lost or otherwise removed as part of the current restoration of the house but will be replaced by chinking of a similar material. A metal-sheathed gable roof with weatherboarded gable ends tops the house. It changes pitch and extends forward on the front (east) to form the shed roof of the porch. A fieldstone chimney at the north end of the house serves a single fireplace on the main floor. Aligned single doorways (the doors themselves have been removed) provide access to the house from the front and rear, while fenestration consists of gable-end window openings—one on the west side of the chimney, two on the south elevation, and one in the south end of the loft. Only the two on the south elevation retain their fixed, six-light sash. A shed-roofed porch extends across the front of the house. Its floor is gone, but the rustic pole posts and balustrade rails remain.

Inside, the Wilson Log House consists of a single room on the first floor with a one-room loft above. A plain stair rises with a quarter turn to the loft from the northeast corner of the main room. The walls and ceilings of the first floor and loft remain unfinished with all structural elements exposed. Earlier in the twentieth century, the first-floor walls were apparently covered with cardboard and paper—a typical solution for insulation in log houses—but only fragments of this covering remain today. While original wide-board flooring remains on the south half of the first story, the flooring of the north half (approximately) has been replaced with more narrow boards. The date of this change is not known. The stone fireplace appears to have replacement stone facing which may date from the 1920s or 1930s. In the loft, two logs rise above the floor, forming a low knee wall beneath the steeply pitched roof.

A frame addition that was built to the rear of the house, probably during the early twentieth century, was removed in recent years, leaving the original log core of the house. Although the Wilson Log House has undergone several alterations through the years (as described above) and is at
present in only fair-to-good condition, it survives as one of the most intact examples of the single-pen log house type in Macon County and is currently undergoing a sensitive restoration/rehabilitation. It retains a high degree of integrity in terms of location, setting, design, feeling, and association, and a sufficient level of integrity of materials and workmanship to merit listing in the National Register.
NPS Form 10-900-a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 3

Wilson Log House
Macon County, North Carolina

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Summary -

Built by Jeremiah W. Wilson in the isolated mountains of Macon County, the ca. 1882 Wilson Log House is a rare surviving example of a house type that was common during the nineteenth-century years of settlement in Macon County. Its single-room-with-loft plan, half-dovetail-notched log construction, gable roof, gable-end fieldstone chimney, shed-roofed front porch, and unfinished interior with corner stair characterize the typical nineteenth-century single-pen log house of the region. The preservation of the house is due in part to the fact that it was owned and occupied by members of Jerry Wilson's family for three quarters of a century. In a county where most of the nineteenth-century settlers' houses were of log construction, and where most of these have been destroyed or altered beyond recognition, the Wilson Log House is architecturally significant at the local level, fulfilling Criterion C for listing in the National Register. Its period of significance is ca. 1882, the period during which the house was constructed. The significance of the Wilson Log House is discussed in Context 3: The Richness of Macon's Resources Realized, 1875-1904 of "Historic and Architectural Resources of Macon County, North Carolina, 1826-1945." It meets the registration requirements for significance in the history of the county's architecture, outlined in Property Type 2: Houses.

Historical Background -

On December 4, 1878, J. W. Wilson purchased 126 acres of mountain land at the southern end of Macon County from M. L. and Ann E. Kelly for $180 (Deed Book S, p. 307). Several years later, he erected the single-pen log house that became home to his large family.

Information about Jerry Wilson is limited. He was born June 26, 1843 in Macon County to John and Elizabeth Henderson Wilson (Vital Statistics - Deaths, Vol. 6, p. 83). On May 30, 1861, he enlisted in the Confederate Army in Jackson County, starting off as a private in Company B, Twentieth-fifth Regiment, North Carolina Troops. In November or December of 1862 Wilson was promoted to sergeant; the following May he transferred to Company A, Twentieth Regiment, South Carolina Infantry (North Carolina Troops, Vol. VII, p. 378).

When Wilson left the army is not known, but on January 21, 1864, J. W. Wilson and H. C. Brown married in Macon County (Index to Vital Statistics - Marriages). Hulda Caroline (Brown) Wilson was born March 19, 1850 to Ableson and Mary (McCall) Brown in Rabun County, Georgia (Vital Statistics - Deaths, Vol. 18, pg. 78). She and Jerry had fourteen children, eight of whom survived to adulthood. Through most of their marriage, they lived in this small log house, and Jerry
farmed the surrounding acreage. According to Jerry and Hulda's second child, Andrew M. "Andy" Wilson (1867-1966), the family moved to this mountain property when he was about fifteen years old (ca. 1882). Jerry Wilson had sold all his livestock, except the sheep at Hulda's request, in order to buy the land. The family first lived in an older log house on the property, but soon thereafter built the present house which became their home (Talley Interview). Jerry Wilson died on July 4, 1925 (Vital Statistics -Deaths, Vol. 6, p. 83), and Hulda followed on April 30, 1939 (Vital Statistics -Deaths, Vol. 18, p. 78), but Wilson family members continued to occupy the log house for nearly two more decades. Zillah Wilson, the thirteenth child of Jerry and Hulda, was the last family member to live in the house (Talley Interview). She sold the property in 1956 to Robert J. and Hazel Killebrew (Deed Book I-6, p. 421), who conveyed it to Rudolf F. and Hanny T. Bertram in 1958 (Deed Book P-6, p. 118). On September 29, 1988, Richard Woodruff, the present owner, purchased this and additional acreage from the Rudolf F. and Hanny T. Bertram Trust (Deed Book C-18, p. 85). He is in the process of rehabilitating/restoring the house as an extremely rare surviving example of a Macon County settlement-era house type. (Woodruff Interview).

**Architecture Context: Nineteenth-Century Log Houses in Macon County -**

Located in southwestern North Carolina, Macon County encompasses over five hundred square miles of mountainous terrain mixed with rolling hills, expansive valleys, and river basins. When formed from Haywood County during the 1828-1829 session of the General Assembly, Macon embraced not only the land within its present boundaries, but also all of what is now Cherokee, Graham, Swain, and Clay counties and portions of Jackson County. In the decades following its formation, Macon County evolved from a rough mountain frontier where hunting and trapping was the principal means of survival to a more economically diverse and socially stable region with schools, churches, large-scale farming, and tourism.

When white settlers came to Macon County, they built log houses and support structures--a logical choice in a place where there was an abundance of timber as well as a lack of builders and sawmills. By the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, log houses akin to those built in the early years of the century continued to be built in the more remote areas of the county--typically by subsistence farmers--although at the same time larger and more stylish frame houses were also being constructed in areas of denser population.

Log dwellings typically had one to two rooms, a stone gable-end chimney, and little or no stylish embellishment. They were simple, unpretentious, practical houses. Although many of these houses were built, surviving examples are rare due to the ravages of deterioration, destruction, and heavy remodelling. The best examples remain intact because they have stayed in possession of the original families and/or are located in remote areas less subject to development and intrusion by new
Within the context of the rare surviving examples of log houses built in Macon County during the nineteenth century, the ca. 1882 Wilson Log House compares favorably. Like many of the other nineteenth-century houses of log construction, it started out as a single-pen cabin with a gable-end stone chimney. Located in a sparsely settled area and used continuously by the Wilson family for three quarters of a century, the house has remained intact, although, like many other log houses in the county, it received a frame rear addition in the early twentieth century. Sometime after the construction of the house, at least part of it was sheathed with weatherboards. At the present time, however, the Wilson Log House is undergoing restoration/rehabilitation. With the removal of the rear addition and the weatherboard siding, the house once again exhibits its original appearance from the 1880s.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 9 & 10 Page 6

Wilson Log House
Macon County, North Carolina

BIBLIOGRAPHY:


Martin, Jennifer. Macon County Multiple Property Documentation Form, on file at the Western Office, Division of Archives and History, Asheville, North Carolina.


GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Verbal Boundary Description -

The nominated property consists of a less-than-one-acre portion of Macon County Tax Parcel 7419.00-98-4934, as outlined with a heavy black line on the accompanying Property Map of Macon County #7429 drawn to a scale of 1" = 200'. The nominated property is bounded on the east by SR 1621, on the north and west by fence and hedge lines, and on the south by a stream bed/ditch.

Boundary Justification -

The nominated property encompasses the domestic yard of less than one acre that provides an appropriate historic setting for the architectural significance of the Wilson Log House.
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet  

Wilson Log House  
Macon County, North Carolina  

PHOTOGRAPHS:

The following information for #1-5 applies to all nomination photographs:

1) Wilson Log House  
2) Macon County, North Carolina  
3) Laura A. W. Phillips  
4) 8/97  
5) State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, North Carolina  
6-7) A: Overall, view to SW  
     B: Context, view to E  
     C: Facade from road, view to W  
     D: Facade and south elevation, view to NW  
     E: North and west elevations, view to SE  
     F: First floor interior, view to N  
     G: Loft interior, view to NW
WILSON LOG HOUSE
MACON CO., NC

PROPERTY MAP OF MACON CO. #7429
ACTUAL TAX REFERENCE (7419.00-98.993)
LOCATED ON ADJACENT MAP

MAP ENLARGED TO SCALE
1” = 200’