State of North Carolina
Division of Archives and History

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

X MULTIPLE RESOURCE  OR  ______________________ THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC  John E. Wilson House
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  Down long lane on east side SR 1631 just N of SR 1630
CITY, TOWN  Dunn vic.
STATE  North Carolina

3 CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>PRESENT USE</th>
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<tr>
<td>DISTRICT</td>
<td>PUBLIC</td>
<td>OCCUPIED</td>
<td>AGRICULTURE</td>
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<tr>
<td>BUILDING(S)</td>
<td>PRIVATE</td>
<td>UNOCCUPIED</td>
<td>_MUSEUM</td>
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<tr>
<td>STRUCTURE</td>
<td>BOTH</td>
<td>WORK IN PROGRESS</td>
<td>_COMMERCIAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SITE</td>
<td>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</td>
<td>ACCESSIBLE</td>
<td>_PARK</td>
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<td>OBJECT</td>
<td>IN PROCESS</td>
<td>YES RESTRICTED</td>
<td>_EDUCATIONAL</td>
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<td>BEING CONSIDERED</td>
<td>YES: UNRESTRICTED</td>
<td>_PRIVATE RESIDENCE</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>_PRIVATE RESIDENCE</td>
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PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE _MUSEUM
COMMERCIAL _PARK
EDUCATIONAL _PRIVATE RESIDENCE
ENTERTAINMENT _RELIGIOUS
GOVERNMENT _SCIENTIFIC
INDUSTRIAL _TRANSPORTATION
MILITARY _OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  Mrs. Dorothy Barefoot
STREET & NUMBER  Rt. 6, Box 144 A
CITY, TOWN  Dunn

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE  Register of Deeds
REGISTER OF DEEDS  Sampson County Court House
STREET & NUMBER  Clinton, N.C. 28328
CITY, TOWN  NC  28344

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE  Thomas Butchko, Jim Sumner, Researcher
ORGANIZATION  Survey and Planning Branch
STREET & NUMBER  109 E. Jones St.
CITY OR TOWN  Raleigh, North Carolina
DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

_EXCELLENT
_GOOD
_FAIR

CHECK ONE

_X DETERIORATED

CHECK ONE

_X UNALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE

_X ALTERED

MOVED DATE

1975 1984

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The ca. 1878 John E. Wilson House is both the most elaborately decorated example of the county's several traditional two-story, single-pile, center-false-gable houses and the finest Italianate Victorian house in Sampson County. Built as a boarding house for teachers and students in conjunction with Shady Grove School, the house, with its richly decorated sawnwork two-tier porch, is an excellent example of the quality of the area's late 19th century workmanship. The vacant house was moved 500 yards in 1975 and again in 1984 by the current owners who have restored the dwelling. The first move was to make room for a more modern house; the second move was to prevent the razing of the house.

An intricate double-tier porch of turned posts with ornamental scrolls and a sawn-slat balustrade graces the three central bays of this charming frame weatherboarded house. Slender cornerboards with simple molded capitals support the boxed cornice which is further ornamented with brackets having a sawn pendant on the exterior face. The house's front and end gables each have louvered trefoil vents and returning cornice. Window sash have segmental arch tops and four-over-four square sash; the surrounds are flat. The bold, double door entrance is slightly recessed with molded interior panels and has an arched transom window and round-headed door windows. On the rear northwest corner is a three-room ell with similar arched windows—a shed porch runs along its southwest elevation and terminated with the engaged pantry at the end of the ell. The remainder of the house's rear elevation is occupied by a one-story shed room. The chimneys on the exterior rear of the main block and on the ell were lost in moving.

The central hall interior was originally plastered; however, the first rough move necessitated the eventual removal of the plaster and lathing; the interior has since been resurfaced with sheetrock. Vernacular Eastlake style mantels grace the downstairs front parlors. The ceilings are beaded tongue-and-groove sheathing; surrounds are simple and two-part. The doors have five raised panels. Immediately inside the entrance rises the stairway with a turned balustrade. The second floor is three steps above the level of the porch and is treated similarly to the first floor.

The present owner, Mrs. Dorothy Barefoot is a descendant of John E. Wilson. She had the house moved in 1984 to prevent its destruction by the former owner who had moved the house a short distance and who planned to renovate it. This was not feasible for him and he built a new dwelling and planned to have the Wilson House demolished. Mrs. Barefoot has restored the house and she and her family now occupy the house. It is now located down a long dirt lane, similar to the dirt road on which it was formerly located, and is at the woodline, surrounded by cultivated fields, retaining its original rural setting.
The John E. Wilson House is both the most elaborately decorated example of the county's several two-story, single-pile, center-false-gable houses and the finest Italianate Victorian house in Sampson County. Built about 1878 for John E. Wilson (1855-1918), the house, used as a boarding house for teachers and students in conjunction with Shady Grove School, is an excellent example of the quality of the area's late 19th century workmanship. In 1975 the vacant house was to be razed to clear the site for new construction. Maxton Bass, an adjacent farmer, bought the house and moved it 500 yards to await restoration/renovation by his son, G. Puett Bass. Mrs. Dorothy Barefoot bought the house and moved it again to avoid demolition and has restored the house on its new site.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

A. The John E. Wilson House is associated with the late 19th century development of a system of schools throughout rural North Carolina.

C. The elaborately and extensively ornamented house is the county's prime example of the rich embellishment often added to the county's prevalent traditional house forms. It is also the finest Italianate Victorian dwelling in the county.

CRITERIA EXCEPTIONS:

B. The John E. Wilson house has been moved twice, once in 1975, to a site several hundred feet from its original site; and in 1984 to a site about five miles from its original site. The house is being nominated primarily on its architectural merits and remains one of, if not the best example of decorative Victorian ornament and workmanship in the county. The house, originally on a dirt road in a rural setting, was moved to a site down a long dirt path off a rural secondary road. Around the house are woods and fields of a working farm, preserving the rural, agricultural setting of the house.
The John E. Wilson House was built in the late 1870s for John E. Wilson. The house is located in the northern part of Sampson County, near the community of Spivey's Corner.

John Elliott Wilson (1855-1918) was the son of Jesse Wilson (1826-1901) and Edney Dudley Wilson. In 1878, he married Eunicy Jane Barefoot. It is believed that he built his house about this time. Wilson was a farmer and businessman who operated cotton gins, sawmills, and a shuttle factory in nearby Dunn. The 1880 census shows Wilson with the ownership of 210 acres valued at $2,000, and livestock valued at $200. He primarily grew cotton and corn.

John and Eunicy Wilson had eleven children, several of whom died at a young age. After John Wilson's death, the house became the property of their daughter, Ira O'Neal (1889-1968). For much of this period, the house was used to board faculty and students for the nearby Shady Grove School. Shady Grove was a private school founded by members of the Shady Grove Free Will Baptist Church, including Martin B. Wilson, a son of John E. Wilson. Shady Grove operated from 1915 until 1926, when it was destroyed by fire.

The Wilson house has been purchased and moved several times in recent years in order to avoid demolition. The present owner, Dorothy Barefoot, a descendant of the builder, is presently restoring the house.

**FOOTNOTES**


2. Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Sampson County, North Carolina, Population Schedule; Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, 105, 697-698.

**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**


**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

| ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY | 0.93 acre |

| UTM REFERENCES |

| A | 17 | ZONE | 26 | EASTING | 00 | NORTHING |
| B | 39 | ZONE | 45 | EASTING | 56 | NORTHING |
| C | 11 | ZONE | 11 | EASTING | 11 | NORTHING |
| D | 11 | ZONE | 11 | EASTING | 11 | NORTHING |

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The property being nominated is just under one acre of the property owed by George Archie Barefoot and shown on the map attached.
George Archie Barefoot

0.93 Acre

Andrew H. Joyner certifies that under his direction and supervision this map was drawn from an actual survey and recorded in good faith.

That the boundary lines are calculated on latitudes and departures that the boundaries have not surveyed are shown as broken lines plotted from information in books. It is stated that this map was prepared in accordance with US 47-50 as amended. Hatteras survey.

State of North Carolina, Harnett County.

I, Clea A. Gallian, a Notary Public do hereby certify that Andrew H. Joyner, personally appeared before me this day and made the examination of the instrument hereunto attached.

Clea A. Gallian, Notary Public
