

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 Thompson, Alfred and Martha Jane, House and Williams Barn

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number south side S.R. 1314, 0.4 mile west of Highway 58 N/A not for publication

city or town New Hope vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Wilson code 195 zip code 27896

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 does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey Crow SHPO 2/5/02
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain): _____	_____	_____

Alfred and Martha Jane Thompson House
and Williams Barn
Name of Property

Wilson County, 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.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
AGRICULTURAL/agricultural outbldg.

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/not in use
VACANT/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: classically-influenced

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
walls wood/weatherboard
roof asphalt
other brick
metal

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1895

c. 1930

Significant Dates

c. 1895

c. 1930

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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:

Alfred and Martha Jane Thompson House
and Williams Barn
Name of Property

Wilson County, NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 5 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	8	2	3	3	0	4	0	3	9	6	6	9	0	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

3

Zone	Easting				Northing									

4

Zone	Easting				Northing									

See continuation sheet

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 Beth Keane

organization Retrospective date August, 2001

street & number 2001 Metts Avenue telephone 910-815-1096

city or town Wilmington state NC zip code 28403

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.)

name Judith Thompson Scull

street & number 4807 Milliken Clouse W. telephone 252-291-2666

city or town Wilson state NC zip code 27896

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.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Thompson, Alfred and Martha Jane, House, and Williams Barn
Section Number 7 Page 1 Wilson County, North Carolina

Narrative Description

The Alfred and Martha Jane Thompson House and associated Williams Barn are located in Taylor Township near New Hope, a small community located several miles west of the city of Wilson, the seat of Wilson County. The c. 1895 Thompson House is a one-story frame double-pile dwelling with Greek Revival and Italianate features. A c. 1930 multipurpose barn is located behind the main dwelling. Although the property, in its entirety, includes 114 acres, this nomination comprises approximately five acres including the farmhouse, the associated barn, and enough land surrounding the buildings to ensure historical context. The property lies between the northern shore of Silver Lake (formerly known as Farmer's Mill Lake or Briggs Lake) and State Route 1314 (Thompson Chapel Church Road), about one-half mile west of Highway 58. The north-facing Thompson House remains in a pristine rural setting surrounded by acres of agricultural fields.

The Thompson House is set approximately 115 feet back from the road. A dirt and gravel driveway runs from the road to the west side of the house. A large holly tree is positioned in front of the house, approximately thirty feet off the northwest corner. Several additional mature deciduous trees are positioned around the house. Much of the neighboring land has been associated with the Thompson family for well over a century. In good condition, the house has experienced little alteration since its construction, with the exception of an early (c. 1930) one-room rear kitchen addition and a small c. 1970 bathroom added to the back porch.

The Thompson House rests on brick piers that have been stabilized with brick infill. The basic cubic form of the house is slightly altered with a front facing wing on the west side. The three-bay facade features a central six-panel door surmounted by a simple transom and two six-over-six single sash windows. The engaged front porch is supported by three replacement square posts. Paneled corner boards accentuate each corner of the house.

The east and west elevations of the house each include two six-over-six sash windows. A one-room c. 1930 kitchen addition extends from the east side of the rear (south) elevation. An L-shaped porch is attached to the rear of the house. A small bathroom was added to the west side of the porch in the 1970s.

The balloon-frame house is sheathed with weatherboard and covered with a shallow-pitched hipped shingle roof with wide overhanging eaves. Paired carved brackets with trefoil cutouts are located above each of the porch posts and corner posts. Two interior chimneys originally served four fireplaces in the house.

The interior floor plan is characterized by a wide central hall served on either end

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Thompson, Alfred and Martha Jane, House, and Williams Barn
Section Number 7 Page 2 Wilson County, North Carolina

by exterior doors. Two rooms are situated on either side of the hall, each with their own entrance off the hall. The four main rooms of the house are similar in size, with the west rooms (bedrooms) slightly smaller due to the closet space adjacent to the fireplaces. The level of ornamentation is the same for each room. The original three-and-one-half-inch pine floor boards, beaded-board ceilings, and wide baseboards are found throughout the house. Plaster walls in the central hall preserve the original wood lathing strips, while wire mesh metal lath is visible in several of the rooms. Each room in the house is wired for a central ceiling light bulb.

Although no longer operational, the two west rooms each contain a fireplace sharing one chimney. The identical mantels consist of a simple board mantel shelf supported by carved engaged columns terminating in a simple scroll. A small closet lined with beaded board is located to one side of the fireplace in each of the rooms.

The east room mantels have been removed and the fireplaces have been filled in and covered over. Openings exist for a flue for an oil-burning stove in each room. A mantel identical to the intact mantels in the west rooms has been salvaged and is currently stored in the barn behind the house. Door openings providing access between the rooms on the east side suggest these were the parlor and dining rooms, while the two rooms west of the central hall served as the bedrooms. Interior doors with six recessed horizontal panels (five panels for the closet doors) surrounded by plain doorframes are found throughout the house.

The c. 1930 rear kitchen is currently void of any appliances with the exception of a hot water heater along the west wall. A recently removed dropped ceiling revealed a slightly charred beaded board ceiling, evidence of a former kitchen fire. Exposed pipes along the north wall indicate the prior location of a sink, while a flue opening in the southeast corner suggests the former stove site.

The c. 1970 bathroom is entered from the back porch. It contains a shower, a toilet, and a sink. The room is enclosed with plywood. A small window in the south wall illuminates the room.

The c. 1930 gambrel-roof barn is located approximately seventy feet behind (south of) the dwelling. Rather unusual in form, the building is banked. The front of the two-story barn with basement rests on a three-foot brick foundation. Tall brick piers support the south end of the barn. Weatherboards sheath the barn's massive post and beam oak frame. Four casement windows are located on the first level of the north (front) elevation. The upper level features a central five-panel door flanked on either side by a one-over-one sash window.

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Thompson, Alfred and Martha Jane, House, and Williams Barn
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Several entrances are located on the east elevation. Wood steps ascend to a five-panel door located twelve-feet above ground level, providing entrance to the first level of the barn. The door opens into a spacious room with exposed oak beams. A covered opening in the floor reveals steps descending to the basement level. A small chimney is positioned in the southwest corner of the room. An east-west wall partitions the barn into two areas. A door in the middle of the dividing wall provides access to the large back room of the barn. Central interior steps ascend to the upper level, revealing a large open loft area.

A second five-panel door on the east elevation of the barn provides access to the back room of the first level. The rear (south) elevation includes two small casement windows on the first level and a five-panel door flanked on either side by one-over-one sash windows on the second level. The gambrel-roof barn features a standing-seam metal roof with overhanging eaves and exposed rafters. A small chimney punctuates the roof on the east side.

Photographs taken for a c. 1980 Wilson County architectural survey reveal several no-longer extant outbuildings on the property, including a smokehouse, an outhouse, a well, and a mule barn. The mule barn was destroyed several years ago during a hurricane. The remaining buildings were dismantled soon after the 1980 survey.

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Thompson, Alfred and Martha Jane, House, and Williams Barn
Section Number 8 Page 4 Wilson County, North Carolina

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The c. 1895 Alfred and Martha Jane Thompson House is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C for architecture. The period of significance is limited to c. 1895, the approximate construction date of the house. Although the popularity of the Greek Revival style among Wilson's wealthiest citizens ended with the Civil War, elements of the Greek Revival remained popular and adorned the houses of farmers until the early twentieth century. As the county slowly began to recover economically in the 1870s, husbandmen, as well as town dwellers, essentially reduced the grand two-story, double-pile Greek Revival-style house to a single story, characterized by a center-hall plan capped with a hipped roof with an attached porch and embellished with simple Greek Revival features. Built in this mode, the Thompson House is a classically-influenced vernacular farmhouse. Although it is serviced by a center hall, the plan varies from the more common symmetrical double-pile plan in that it features a front-facing west wing. The hipped roof extends to include engaged front and rear porches. Typical of vernacular dwellings of the era, the Thompson House exhibits Greek Revival-inspired elements such as paneled corner pilasters and a wide frieze. Italianate elements include wide overhanging eaves supported by paired sawn-cut brackets. The c. 1930 rear kitchen addition is also embellished with paneled corner pilasters

The nomination also includes a c. 1930 multi-functional barn, eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C for architecture. The period of significance is limited to c. 1930, the approximate construction date of the barn. The banked post and beam barn, the only remaining outbuilding on the property, is significant as an excellent, well-preserved example of a multi-functional barn. The agricultural landscape extending beyond the boundaries of the nominated parcel remains a remarkably intact vista of fields and pastures reminiscent of the time period in which the house was constructed.

Historical Background

The earliest European settlers in the Wilson area arrived about 1740. Most came from Virginia, rather than directly from England or the Carolina coast. At the time of the Revolution, the area was still only lightly settled. The town of Wilson was officially established on January 29, 1849, and named after Louis Dicken Wilson (1789-1847), the son of an Edgewcombe planter, and a state Representative for five terms and state Senator for fourteen terms (1820, 1824 to 1832, and 1838 to 1846). Wilson County was established in 1855 from four other counties, Edgewcombe, Nash, Wayne, and Johnston. At the time the county was formed, tar and turpentine were the principal cash products with cotton becoming important in the 1860s and tobacco in the 1890s.

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Thompson, Alfred and Martha Jane House and Williams Barn
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William Thompson came from Scotland to Williamsburg, Virginia, in the sixteen hundreds, later making his way to Wayne County, North Carolina. After several generations, one of his descendants, Benjamin Everette Thompson, came to that part of Nash County which later became Wilson County, Taylor Township. Alfred Moore Thompson was the youngest child of Benjamin Everette Thompson, Sr., and Sarah Nichols of the Stoney Creek/Saulston area of Wayne County. Born on October 4, 1814, Alfred grew up, lived, and farmed in the area his entire life (*History of Wilson County and Its Families*, p. 378).

Alfred Moore Thompson married Elmina Crowell on May 10, 1836. The couple had twelve children: Elizabeth (b. April, 1837, d. March 11, 1915); Benjamin Everette (b. January 10, 1839, d. November 28, 1920); Eliza Jane (b. December 31, 1841, d. May 3, 1908); Doctor Franklin (b. December 20, 1842, d. May 31, 1864); John Bunyan (b. April 4, 1845; d. February 18, 1924); Elmira W. (b. c. 1847, d. c. 1896); Sarah (b. April 19, 1849, d. May 13, 1926); Alfred Moore, Jr. (b. September 30, 1851, d. April 11, 1924); William Moore (b. March 7, 1854, d. December 1932); George Washington (b. c. 1857, d. c. 1889); Thomas Jefferson (b. August 16, 1859, d. September 22, 1928); and Nancy "Nannie" Ann (b. June 12, 1860, d. June 15, 1936) (Horton, npn).

By the late 1840s, Alfred was well on his way toward becoming a beloved local figure, a solid citizen, an excellent farmer, a devoted husband and father, as well as a strong practitioner of the Missionary Baptist faith. He gradually began to accumulate land grants and outright purchases in Nash and what would become Wilson counties. At various times, he owned between 800 and 1000 acres of wooded, swampy, and cleared farmland (Horton, npn). According to the 1860 Federal census, Alfred Thompson was listed as a very large landholder and farmer. He owned 200 acres of improved land and 671 acres of unimproved land. His farm value was shown as \$3,000.00 and his machinery and implements were valued at \$140.00. At that time he owned fourteen slaves living in two houses (1860 Census, Wilson County).

During the 1850s, 60s, and 70s, Alfred was listed by Branson and Farrar in their annual North Carolina Directory as an outstanding farmer in Wilson County, North Carolina. Moreover, he was sought out to administer several estates, act as guardian to several deceased neighbors' children, and to conduct land and household sales to settle estates. Alfred continued to acquire land and equipment for successful farming, including a ninety-five-acre tract along Pig Basket Creek in Nash County, acreage along the Great Swamp, and purchases of several sites along the Tar River (Horton, npn).

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Thompson, Alfred and Martha Jane House and Williams Barn
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As he matured personally and publicly, Thompson took on more citizenship roles. He served as a commissioner in Wilson County government during March, 1873. He joined W. E. Winstead and Theophilus Parker as the original trustees of the newly-forming New Hope Missionary Baptist Church. He and his family continued to be lifelong faithful custodians and supporters of this new church (Horton, npn).

Alfred's wife, Elmina, died on August 2, 1875. Several of the children had already married and left the farm. Thompson soon sought the attention and affection of another spouse and on February 5, 1879, at New Hope Baptist Church, he wed Martha Jane Edmonson from Wayne County in the presence of some 100 attendees. Alfred was sixty-four and Martha Jane was thirty-eight years old (Vital Statistics, Wilson County). In a marriage contract entered into before her marriage, Martha Jane had requested and received the promise of a deed of trust from Alfred for 150 acres of land which would "remain among the children of her body" (should the couple have any). If the union did not produce any offspring, the land would revert to the children from his first marriage upon her death (Deed Book 15:106). Physical evidence suggests that the house under consideration is Alfred Thompson's second home and was built during the 1890s, possibly as a retirement home. His twelve children would have been grown by this time, and it is theorized that the house was intended for his second wife to reside in on the promised 150 acres after his death.

By the time Alfred Thompson died on March 18, 1896, he had given land to most of his children and grandchildren. His will provided additional land for each of their households (Will Book 3, p. 177). Community and church people lauded Alfred at his passing and paid tribute to him in the Wilson newspapers (*The Wilson Times*, March 27, 1896, p. 8). Thompson was buried in his own family cemetery approximately sixty yards behind his father's original farmhouse along present-day Cliftonville Road. His gravestone bears the following inscription:

A precious one from us is gone
A voice we loved is stilled.
There is a vacant place in our home
That never will be filled. (Horton, npn)

After Thompson's death, his second wife, Martha Jane, lived in the home for a number of years, along with a granddaughter, Lena. She and Lena eventually moved to Maplewood Avenue in Wilson (Horton interview, 3 May 2001). Upon Martha's death on December 18, 1913, the 150 acres which she had bargained for and received in her marriage contract to Alfred, reverted to Alfred's heirs (children and grandchildren).

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Thompson, Alfred and Martha Jane House and Williams Barn
Section Number 8 Page 7 Wilson County, North Carolina

Nannie Thompson Batts, Alfred's youngest child, bought a portion of her brothers and sisters share of the land (Deed Book 86:292 and Deed Book 102:425).

Apparently a dispute over the land division between Nannie Batts and the remaining heirs resulted in a group of commissioners meeting on October 13, 1915, at the Thompson House to equitably and legally divide the 139 acres in question. At this time, Nannie Batts received eighty-nine acres including the Thompson House, Thomas Jefferson Thompson received ten acres, the heirs of Elmira Thompson Eastman received nine acres, the heirs of George Washington Thompson received fifteen acres, and John Sidney Thompson received sixteen acres (Deed Book 78:225).

It has been suggested by a Thompson descendent that Nannie Batts lived in the house for a period of time (Horton interview, May 3, 2001). On February 12, 1917, John Sidney Thompson sold sixty-four-and-three-quarter acres of his property bordering Farmer's Mill Pond (Silver Lake) to Roscoe B. Fleming (Deed Book 111:59). On the same day, Nannie Batts sold Roscoe B. and Nannie Fleming an adjacent fifty-two-and-one-half acres, including the Alfred M. and Martha Jane Thompson House (Deed Book 111:383).

In 1931, the Flemings defaulted on a mortgage they had taken out on the property and the land was taken over by The Planters Bank of Wilson (Deed Book 202:42). D. Cash Williams, Jr., a local land speculator, bought the property from the bank on November 21, 1932 (Deed Book 200:278). The surviving tobacco barn was added during the ownership of Cash Williams. Two years later Williams sold the property to Ida A. Brown (Deed Book 208:475). The land came back into the ownership of the Thompson family in 1937, when Alfred Moore Thompson's great-grandson, William Cecil (W. C.) Thompson, paid Ida Brown \$8,250.00 for the property (Deed Book 233:473).

W. C. Thompson, grandson of Alfred's son, Benjamin Everette Thompson, and son of John Sidney Thompson, was born on September 20, 1902. He married Agnes Credle on December 23, 1925. They had one daughter, Judith, born on August 10, 1938. W. C. Thompson, former owner and manager of several large tobacco warehouses, made his home in Wilson. The old Thompson House was used as a tenant house for workers on the farm (Thompson interview, May 3, 2001). W. C.'s wife, Agnes, a former school teacher, died on December 30, 1995. W. C. Thompson died on September 22, 1999, at the age of 97 (Vital Statistics, Wilson County).

W. C. Thompson's daughter, Judith, has inherited the property associated with the Alfred Moore and Martha Jane Thompson House. Judith married David Scull on July 9,

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Thompson, Alfred and Martha Jane House and Williams Barn
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1960, and they have two children Susan Cecily (b. September 29, 1965) and Elizabeth Vernon (b. November 21, 1967) (Vital Statistics, Wilson County). The Sculls live several miles from the Thompson House. They are planning preventative and restorative steps to maintain the Alfred Moore and Martha Jane Thompson House and would like to keep it in the family for future generations.

Architectural Context

During the years leading up to the Civil War, the Greek Revival style emerged locally, affecting traditional forms and inspiring new ones, while introducing a characteristic array of architectural detail such as corner pilasters, wide friezes, and tripartite door surrounds. On a national scale, the Greek Revival style was popularized as a symbolic link between the world's oldest and newest democracies. Equally important was the flood of builders' pattern books during the 1830s and 1840s that promoted distinctive Greek Revival motifs. The Greek Revival style had a remarkably long run in North Carolina, and certain Greek Revival traits became part of the vernacular building vocabulary, appearing on the houses of small farmers until the early twentieth century.

No major two-story Greek Revival-style houses exist in Wilson County from the post Civil War period. As the county slowly began to recover economically in the 1870s, the former two-story Greek Revival-style house was reduced to a one-story, center-hall house with Greek Revival trim. Across Wilson county, numerous four-room, three-bay central-hall dwellings appeared with hipped roofs, embedded chimneys, and attached front porches. The house type became popular with town merchants, as well as rural farmers. The houses were embellished with vernacular Greek Revival motifs, typified by plain wide friezes, corner boards or pilasters, six-over-six sash windows, and transoms and sidelights framing the front door.

The one-story c. 1895 Thompson House is similar to the popular house design of the post Civil War era in that it features a central hall flanked by two similar size square rooms. Although it includes a low-pitched hipped roof, typical of the late Greek Revival-inspired houses, the roof line extends to incorporate engaged front and rear porches, a vernacular form for eastern North Carolina. The irregular plan of the Thompson House includes a front-facing west wing. Balloon-frame construction, a relatively rapid and inexpensive method of wooden framing introduced during the latter half of the nineteenth century, freed house shapes from their traditional plane-walled patterns by allowing for easily constructed irregular plans with multiple extensions. Since the mid-nineteenth century, such irregular wall forms have been commonly superimposed

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Thompson, Alfred and Martha Jane House and Williams Barn
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upon both simple and compound plans as balloon framing became the standard construction technique.

The modest one-story Thompson House is embellished with paneled pilasters at the corners, along with paneled porch posts, popularized by the Greek Revival style. (The original porch posts are visible on the back porch.) Constructed in the late nineteenth century, the Thompson House has elements of both the Greek Revival style and the Italianate, as well as elements of the local vernacular traditions. The house features wide overhanging eaves and sawn-cut paired brackets over each corner post, standard architectural elements of the Italianate style. The typical Greek Revival door surround consisting of sidelights and transom has been reduced in the Thompson House to a simple one-light rectangular transom over the door. Six-over-six sash windows, a standard feature in the second half of the nineteenth century, flank the front door. Late nineteenth-century architectural trim on the interior includes mantels with carved columns supporting a plain mantel shelf, rather than the earlier Greek Revival post-and-lintel style mantels.

Numerous variations on this fashionable double-pile, hipped-roof one-story dwelling were built by farmers throughout Wilson and nearby Nash counties and many have remained largely intact. The c. 1870s Sallie Graves House, located in Stantonsburg Township in Wilson County, is a classic example of a one-story farmhouse with a hipped roof and twin interior chimneys. The late Greek Revival embellishments include the three-bay facade sheltered by a porch with square posts and a four-panel door surrounded by sidelights and transom (Ohno, p.120). Built somewhat earlier, the Tanzy Felton House in Saratoga Township, Wilson County, appears to date c. 1850. This Greek Revival cubic dwelling exhibits a hipped roof, interior chimneys, and trabeated front and rear doors. The interior follows a central-hall plan with two rooms on each side of the hall (Ohno, p. 97). The steeply pitched hipped roofs of these two houses are indicative of an earlier building date. Built twenty to forty years earlier than the Thompson House, the Graves House and the Felton House, are more classic examples of the Greek Revival design with their symmetrical plan and classic door surround.

Several classically-inspired houses in nearby Nash County include the Billy Lew Arrington House in the town of Castalia. Similar to the Thompson House, the c. 1874 Arrington House is an example of an Italianate adaptation of the popular hip-roofed cubic one-story dwelling, featuring bracketed chamfered porch posts and round-arched, double-entry doors surrounded by sidelights and transom. The original six-over-six windows are intact, as is the bracketed frieze with a repetitive millwork design (Nash County Architecture, p. 153). The c. 1875 Captain Adam Harrison House, also located in

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Thompson, Alfred and Martha Jane House and Williams Barn
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Castalia, is exemplary of the late Greek Revival, hipped-roofed cottage built throughout Nash County in the middle 1800s. The vernacular Greek Revival elements of the house include paneled pilasters at the corners of the facade and around the main entrance. The house is capped by a low hipped roof and features twin interior chimneys (Nash County Architecture, p. 154).

A mirror image of the Alfred Thompson House can be found in the city of Wilson, Wilson County, at 314 Layton Street (Bainbridge, p. 96). Built somewhat later than the other examples, this c. 1885 one-story frame house features the same L-shaped plan of the Thompson House with its projecting front room, engaged porch, and center hall. Replicated embellishments include paneled corner pilasters and overhanging eaves with paired sawn-cut brackets.

The persistence of elements of Greek Revival architecture on both grand and modest dwellings signaled the immense popularity the style retained in southeastern North Carolina for over half a century. The Alfred and Martha Jane Thompson House reflects earlier building traditions in Wilson County, along with a conservatism in the continued use of classical detailing on the exterior.

The Williams Barn, located behind the Thompson House, was built c. 1930 during the time the property was owned by Cash Williams. The gambrel-roof barn, used in the tobacco production process, is a rare survivor of a once common form. This multi-purpose type of barn was promoted by agricultural extension departments across the United States from the 1920s through the 1940s. The two-story with basement barn features a massive post-and-beam oak frame and is built into a bank. The barn was used for sorting, grading, and storing the tobacco crop. After the tobacco crop was cured, it was stored in the packhouse until market time in the fall. While in the pack house, the leaves were "graded" or sorted into groups according to quality. After size, color, and condition determined the grade of the leaves, they were bound into bundles called hands. Periodically during storage and grading, a pit beneath the barn was utilized for "ordering" of the tobacco, a procedure in which the leaves were hung to absorb just enough moisture to make the blades pliant. In the case of the Williams Barn, the ordering room was located in the raised basement of the barn. The lower front room was used for grading and the upper room for storage. The Williams Barn was also considered a multipurpose barn, where other crops, including hay, would have been stored. With changes in tobacco-curing technology in the second-half of the twentieth century, these types of barns became obsolete and are now increasingly rare on the landscape.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Wake County Deed Books, Office of Register of Deeds, Wilson County Courthouse
Annex.

Wake County Will Books, Office of Clerk of Superior Court, Wilson County Courthouse.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property, located on the south side of State Route 1314 and 0.4 miles west of the junction with North Carolina Route 58, is rectangular in shape and encompasses approximately five acres and measures 260.89 feet along the north border (the legal property line), 834.84 feet along the east and west borders, and 260.89 feet along the south border. The boundary is delineated on the attached Wilson County Tax Map.

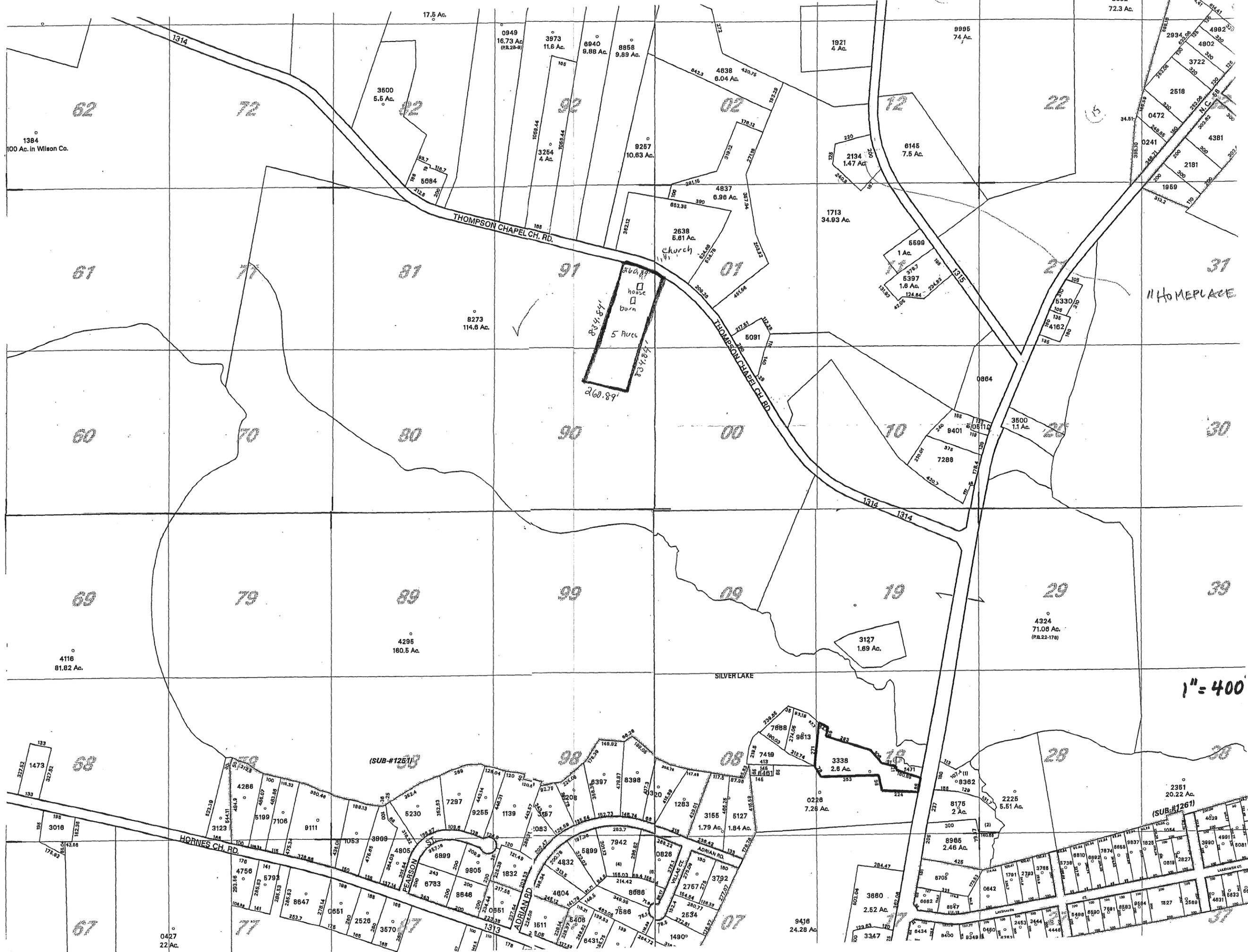
Boundary Justification

The property boundary for the Alfred M. Thompson House entails an approximate five-acre tract containing the c. 1895 Alfred M. Thompson House and associated outbuilding, along with enough land to retain historic and architectural integrity in an agricultural landscape.

Wilson County
#8273 (114.6 acres)
Thompson property (Scull)
nominated parcel (5 acres)
(1" = 400')

Thompson, Alfred and
Martha Jane, House
and Williams Barn
New Hope vicinity
Wilson Co., NE

— boundary line
of nominated
property



1" = 400'

