NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 2012)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

085

RECEIVED 2280
FEB 05 2010
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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 Wilkinson-Martin House

other names/site number Sims House

2. Location

street & number 954 North 1st Street ☐ N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town Pulaski ☐ N/A ☐ vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Giles code 055 zip code 38478

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 for 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.)

E. Patrick McIlhenny — February 1, 2010

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission

State or 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 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:) _____

for Edson H. Beall — Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action 3.17.10

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 count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
	1	structures
		objects
1	2	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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
SOCIAL: community activities center

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

FEDERAL

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: limestone; BRICK
walls WOOD: weatherboard
roof METAL
other CONCRETE

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 N/A
(Mark "x" in all 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)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1835-1922

Significant Dates
1835—construction of house

Significant Person
(complete if Criterion B is marked)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Wilkinson, Francis H.

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): N/A

- ☐ 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:
MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Wilkinson-Martin House
Name of Property

Giles County, Tennessee
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 2.0 acres Pulaski 59 NE

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	497504	3896231	3			
2				4			

☐ 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 Michael Gavin (Preservation Specialist) and Catherine Hawkins (Graduate Assistant)
organization MTSU Center for Historic Preservation date October 2, 2009
street & number MTSU Box 80 telephone 615-898-2947
city or town Murfreesboro state TN zip code 37132

Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 0r 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 Vivian Sims
street & number P.O. Box 534 telephone
city or town Pulaski state TN zip code 38478

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 listing. 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 20303.

7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Located on U.S Highway 31 at 954 North 1st Street, atop a hill across from the historic Bridgeforth High School (NR 8/9/06) and just minutes from downtown Pulaski (pop. 7871) in Giles County, Tennessee, the Wilkinson-Martin House is an excellent example of a Federal style dwelling. Completed in 1835, the house features a symmetrical five-bay façade, exterior end chimneys, and a central hall plan. It is one of the earliest extant residences in Pulaski. The house faces east toward North 1st Street, or Highway 31. Several large trees are scattered throughout the property; most notable of these is a massive mulberry tree behind the house that could be one of the largest in the state.

Construction on the residence was begun by Francis H. Wilkinson in 1830 with the help of slave labor and completed in 1835. It is built in a simple and restrained style version of the Federal style. The exterior walls of the two-story braced timber-frame building are clad with wood weatherboards. The house rests on a brick foundation that is hidden in places by decorative latticework. The original house consists of eight rooms. There are four brick chimneys: an exterior brick chimney on each of the three gable ends of the house and an exterior brick chimney between the one- and two-story sections of the rear ell. The back porch was enclosed in 1978 with concrete block, but the original exterior wall material is still present within the enclosed space.

Following the Federal style, the symmetrical front façade contains five bays on each floor, following the A-A-B-A-A pattern. This symmetry is very pronounced throughout the entire house. The stairway with its delicate handrail and balusters, the classical features of the entrance, the plain mantels and trim, and the twelve foot-tall ceilings on the interior contribute to the Federal style appearance. The interior of the entrance hall has nearly ceiling-to-floor fluted pilasters flanking the double entry doors, and the multi-paned sidelights have well-executed plain panels beneath them. The Federal aesthetic is also reflected in the central hall layout of the floor plan and the symmetrical placement of windows on opposite elevations.

Consistent with Federal style, the entryway receives the most emphasis. The main entrance on the east facade, including the multi-light transom and multi-light sidelights, is original to the house. Both the rectangular transom and sidelights have a unique pattern of alternating sizes of rectangular glass panes. The original doors for the front entrance have been replaced with single-light wood doors. The slender round columns with Ionic capitals on either side of the doors are original, as well as the surrounding wood door trim. The present front porch most likely was added around the turn of the twentieth century. The porch posts were replaced in the 1970s with aluminum posts. At that time, round fluted columns with modified Corinthian capitals were substituted for the original porch posts. The porch first rested on brick piers, but decorative brick

infill was added sometime after 1967. These are the only substantial alterations to the east façade. On the second story of the central bay of the east façade, is a 9/9, double-hung wood window with 3/3, double-hung wood sidelights. Flanking the central entrance bay on both floors are two 9/9, double-hung wood windows. The windows are original, have wood sills, and are flanked by wood shutters.

The south elevation of the house has a one-story section and two-story section. The two-story section includes the gable end of the front portion of the house and a two-bay ell. The one story portion is also original and contains two bays extending west from the two-story ell. The gable end of the two-story portion has a central brick exterior chimney that is flanked on each floor by 9/9 double-hung wood windows. The windows and trim are original. Louvered shutters flank the outer sides of these windows. The two-story section of the ell contains two bays. On the first floor, the entrance is in the west bay. This entrance has a two-light, two-panel door protected by a small simple portico supported by two square posts. A small concrete block stoop with poured concrete steps supports a concrete slab outside the door. The east bay of the first floor and both bays of the second floor contain 9/9 double-hung wood windows. The windows and trim are original. They are flanked by original wood blinds. The single story section on the south elevation of the house has two 9/9 double-hung wood windows, one in each bay. Like the other windows on the south elevation, they have original wood trim and are flanked by wood shutters.

The west elevation for the ell wing has two 6/6, double-hung wood windows that light the kitchen. These windows are positioned on either side of the exterior brick chimney on the first story. They are replacements installed some time before the current owner acquired the property in 1968. In addition, the attic wall has two small boarded-up openings that flank the chimney.

The one-story concrete block enclosed porch is located on the north side of the rear ell. The west elevation of the porch contains paired 6/6, double-hung wood windows with concrete sills.

The second story gable end of the two-story portion of the ell is also visible on the west elevation. The gable end contains the upper portion of an exterior brick chimney.

Also visible on the west elevation is the rear of the five-bay main block of the house. The two southern bays are covered by the ell wing. The central bay contains a single 9/9, double-hung wood window in the upper story. The lower story of the central bay is covered by the one-story concrete block porch. The two northernmost bays each contain a 9/9, double-hung wood window in both the first and second floors. The windows are original, have original wood surrounds, and are flanked by replacement shutters.

The north elevation of the home consists of the one-story concrete block porch. This porch was once an open porch, but was enclosed in 1978. The one-story porch has eight bays. The easternmost bay contains a single 1/1, double-hung aluminum window. The next two bays each contain paired 1/1, double-hung aluminum windows. The fourth bay (from the east) contains a four-panel wood door, with a wrought-iron-and-glass storm door. The next three bays each contain paired 1/1, double-hung aluminum windows. The eighth, or westernmost bay, contains a door identical to that in the fourth bay. The windows are all original to 1978 and have concrete sills and wood surrounds. A concrete slab patio extends from the porch on the western end.

The north elevation of the two-story ell is above the three easternmost bays of the one-story porch. This elevation contains two 9/9 double-hung wood windows with original wood sills and shutters.

The roofing, historically, was metal installed before 1950. The metal was made by Tenneseal-Tennessee Coal Iron & Railroad Company, indicated by the company stamp on the metal. The house was re-roofed with green enameled-sheet metal in 2008 that matched the appearance of the historic roof. Some of the gutters have been replaced with modern enameled-aluminum material, but most of the historic half-round sheet metal gutters remain.

The corbelled chimneys on each end of the main house service the two main parlors and the rooms located above. There is also a similar tall chimney located between the second and first stories of the ell wing. A shorter chimney for the kitchen is located on the west elevation that matches the other three chimneys of the house.

There have not been many significant alterations to the exterior of the house, aside from the repairs to the front porch, the addition of Corinthian columns, the brick infill of the porch, and the enclosing of the back porch in the 1970s. The alterations that have been made have been done to protect and preserve the architectural elements of the house and do not detract from the architectural integrity.

The layout of the house is anchored by the central hall plan, which follows the Federal style. The front rooms of the house also reflect this symmetry. Much of the house's interior material is original to the 1830s construction. The original poplar floors can be found in many of the rooms including: the north parlor, the rear parlor, as well as the bedrooms and sitting area upstairs. The other floors in the house are oak and were replacement floors, but those replacements are historic. The interior features include original two-paneled beveled doors and door trim. The baseboards, mantels, ceiling moldings and plaster walls are also original to the house. The stairway in the entrance hall reflects the light and airy style of the Federal aesthetic and is original. The U-shaped stair plan retains its original unembellished newel posts, handrails, and balusters.

Upon entering the house, there are two large square parlors on either side of the central hall, consistent with the Federal floor plan. A door leading to the now enclosed back porch is located at the rear of the hallway. The north parlor is by far the most ornate room in the house. On the north wall of this room stands a large mantel with limestone slips and brick firebox. The mantel is simple, with two horizontal curves in the frieze for embellishment. It is constructed of quarter-sawn white oak veneered hardwood finished with clear varnish. This room contains four windows, two each on the east and west sides. Beneath each window are dark wood panels that are similar to wainscoting except that they are found only directly underneath the windows. This wood matches the window trim and baseboards, all of which are original. Also located in this room is the simple rectangular plaster ceiling molding original to the house. The floors in this room are the original 1830s wide plank yellow poplar floors.

The decoration in the south parlor is more restrained than the north parlor. It does not have the same dark wood panels under the windows and the mantel, although it is original, is simpler in design. This stark white-painted mantel has only a single top shelf and a wide frieze with no embellishment anywhere, flanked by two plain pilasters. The south room has four windows, two on the east elevation of the house, and two on either side of the fireplace on the south elevation. The oak floor in this room is a replacement, ca. early 1970s. The window trim and baseboards are original to the house.

Directly west of the south parlor is a larger rectangular room with one window and one door on the south wall. On the north wall of this room is a door leading to the covered porch area and a window to the west of it. There is a fireplace on the west wall of the room. The mantel is similar to the one in the south parlor, with a little more detail. The mantel shelf has rounded corners in the front and a grooved face. A one-inch-wide cavetto molding covers the space between the shelf and frieze. There are no defined pilasters, but a unique lightning bolt-shaped molding strip runs vertically from shelf to floor on both sides of the mantel. The floors in this room are the original 1830s wide plank yellow poplar floors. The walls, baseboards, window and door trim, panels, and chair rail are all original to the house. This is the only room on the first floor with a chair rail, and the only one with paneled wainscoting on the walls. A bathroom was added to the northeast corner of the room before 1967.

The next room to the west is the dining room. This room has three door entrances, one on the east wall, one leading out on to the enclosed porch to the north, and one leading into the kitchen on the west wall. There is one window located on the south wall of this room. The doors and trim are original to the house, as well as the window. The mantel consists of a single shelf board with rounded corners that surmounts a continuous bead and a cavetto molding. The plain frieze has an tapered edge at the bottom that tapers onto the top of the pilasters. The pilasters have simple molded capitals and bases. Also, present in this room is a stacked closet with two sets of double

doors, one on top of the other. These doors have the beveled panel design present on all of the original interior doors of the house. This closet is inset into the south fireplace nook on the east wall. The floor in this room is a replacement oak floor.

The kitchen retains little of its original appearance because it was remodeled in 1995. It does, however, have the original ceiling, doors and trim, and walls. The 9/9 double-hung sash window on the south wall is also original to the house, but the 6/6 windows by the fireplace, on the west wall, are not. The interior brickwork of the fireplace, the flooring, and the cabinets are all products of the renovation.

A door on the north side of the kitchen leads to the rear porch, which was enclosed in 1978 with concrete block. However, this enclosure does not affect the original exterior of the house. The original weatherboarding in this enclosure is in very good condition, as are the windows, doors, and trim. The door at the east end of the porch leads into the central hall of the main part of the house.

The delicate U-shaped Federal staircase is original to the house, as are all its components. The first floor newel post is mounted on a curtail step and consists of concentric wood balusters forming a volute. The thin hand rail terminates in a spiral that is missing its decorative central button. A closed string staircase begins along the south wall of the hallway and continues to a half-landing above the door leading to the rear porch. Lighting the landing on the west elevation is a 9/9 double-hung wood window. There is no handrail along the wall; instead there is a chair rail on the three sides of the half-landing. The newels are plain tapered square posts that support the gracefully curved handrail at the corners. The upper section of the staircase is the open string type. The handrails and treads are painted brown and the rest of the components are painted white. There are no decorative elements on the stringers except a molding strip along the bottom of the outside stringer. The area under the lower section of the staircase is enclosed to form a closet. It is accessed by a two-panel wood door. There is a large sitting area at the top of the stairs directly over the central hall. This area contains a window with sidelights on the east elevation of the house. The floor in this sitting area is the 1830s wide plank yellow poplar floor.

Three bedrooms are situated off of this sitting area. There is one to the north, over the parlor downstairs. There are four windows in this room, two on the east wall and two on the west wall. On the north elevation is a fireplace with polished limestone slips and brick firebox. A plain dark one-board mantel shelf surmounts a cavetto molding at the top of a wide frieze which is supported by two sturdy pilasters. A plain recessed molding strip borders the slip on all three sides. There is also a bedroom off the south side of the sitting area. Four windows are present in this room as well. There are two on the east wall and one on each side of the fireplace. This fireplace is directly across from the doorway on the south wall. The firebox is covered by a wallpapered panel. The

white-painted mantel has two shelf boards, one recessed under the other. The one-foot-wide frieze is surrounded by a thick wood trim board and is supported by two plain pilasters.

A small hall connects the south bedroom to the west bedroom. This hall contains a bathroom that was installed in 1970 and a small enclosed closet. This small closet enclosure is located to the south side of the hallway and contains a window on the south wall. The last bedroom is located through this hallway, and like the other bedrooms has a fireplace directly across from the door on the west wall. The white mantel is similar to the one in the upper south bedroom. It has two shelf boards, one recessed under the other. The one-foot-wide frieze is surrounded by a thick wood trim board and is supported by two plain pilasters. There are three windows in this room, two on the north wall and one on the south wall. This back bedroom also contains a small bathroom installed in 2005. A closet was also installed in this room where a staircase once led to the kitchen. This back stair was removed and closed sometime before 1967.

All of the bedrooms upstairs retain the original wide plank yellow poplar floors. The doors and windows, including their trim, are original as well. The walls, ceiling, and mantels found in each room are also from the original 1830s construction. None of the upstairs rooms feature chair rails; only the main stair landing between floors has a chair rail.

Interior alterations include the addition of plumbing and bathrooms. These additions took place before 1967 on the first floor, and in 1970 and 2005 for the bathrooms on the second level. A closet was added on the second floor in the back room where a back stair was originally located. The original kitchen in the back room on the first floor has been remodeled to create a modern kitchen. This was done in 1995. The original wood ceiling and wood wall covering have been retained in this room.

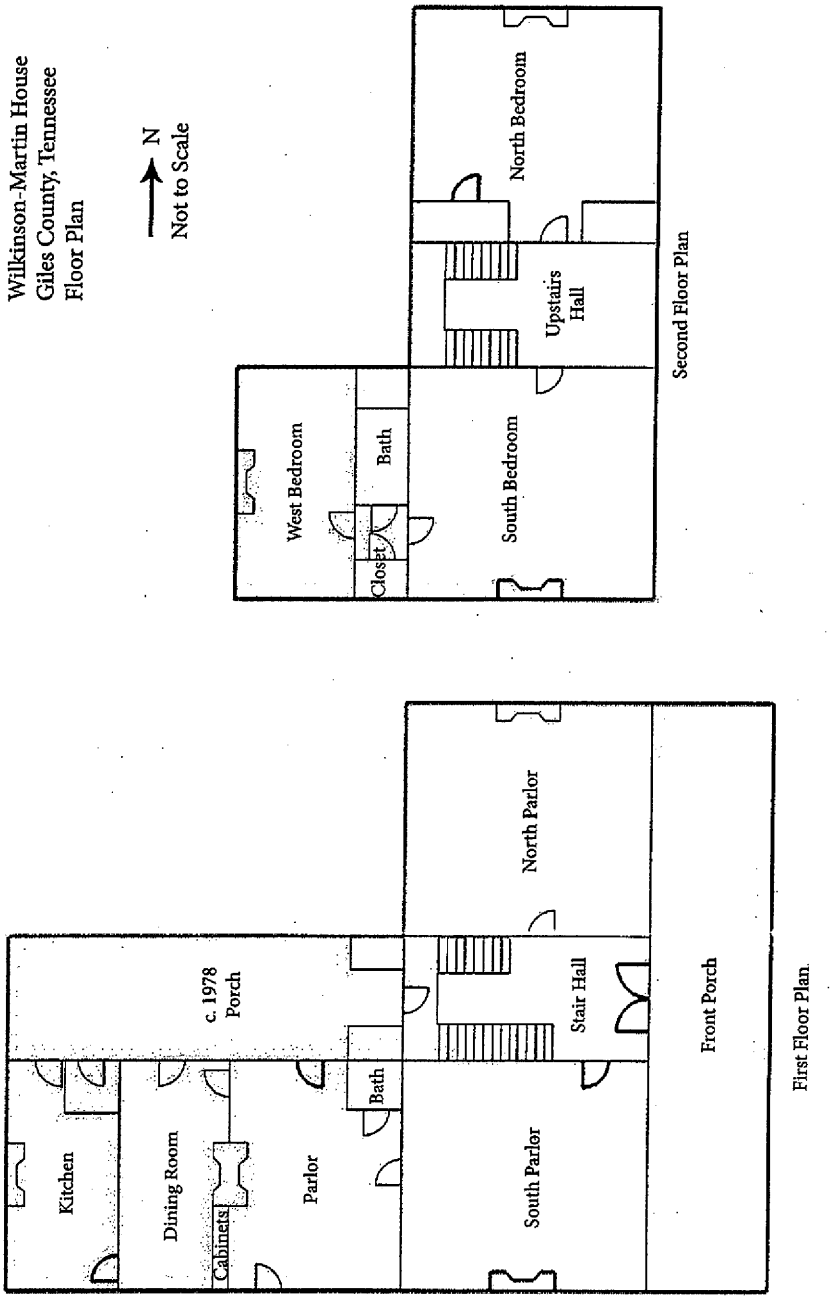
There have been two structures added to the property. One is a gazebo that was added in 1998 northwest of the house. The other is an ornamental well that was added within the last five years at the rear of the house. Both are noncontributing resources to this nomination.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

Wilkinson-Martin House
Giles County, Tennessee



8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wilkinson-Martin House is being nominated for the National Register under Criterion A for its local significance in Settlement and Criterion C for Architecture. The Wilkinson-Martin House was designed and built by Francis H. Wilkinson in 1830 with the help of slave labor, and was completed in 1835. It is an excellent example of the Federal style featuring a symmetrical facade, multi-light double-hung windows, central hall plan, and an articulated entry with sidelights and transom. The Wilkinson family was one of the early families to settle in Giles County. The Wilkinson-Martin house stayed within the family for over 130 years, until a neighbor, Henry Sims, bought it. The house is now in the ownership of his widow, Vivian Sims.

Historical Narrative

Much of Pulaski and Giles County was a dense canebrake and hunting grounds for the Native Americans before 1806. Giles County was established in November 1809. The Wilkinson family was among the earliest white settlers in the area. Both Thomas Wilkinson and his son worked hard at their respective trades to accumulate enough money to support and later expand their farming capabilities. Although the first dwellings were log buildings, many citizens upgraded their homes as soon as it was feasible.

Francis H. Wilkinson (also referred to as Wilkerson in some sources) was born in 1804. His family moved from Chesterfield County, Virginia, to Smith County, Tennessee, and then to Giles County, near the Patterson Spring, in 1809. After the Chickasaw Cession in 1806, the Wilkinsons were among some of the earliest settlers in the county. They were living there when commissioners laid out the town of Pulaski in 1810. Wilkinson's father, Thomas, was a veteran of the War of 1812 and practiced the gunsmith's trade. As some of the earliest settlers, the Wilkinson family helped set the cultural precedents and patterns that would more fully develop as the town grew. The area in which they settled would become the northern limits of the town of Pulaski, which had an influence on the city's growth and development patterns.

Francis H. Wilkinson built his Federal-style house in a prominent location at the northern end of town where his family had settled. Although the Federal style was definitely on the wane by the 1830s, it suited the taste of the Virginia-born Wilkinson. The construction of the house began c.1830 and was finished c.1835. These construction dates derive from the estimates of local historians who examined the architectural characteristics of the house and the age and career of the builder, as well as his family. The evidence implies that the Wilkinson-Martin House has existed since the 1830s and is one of the oldest residences still standing in Pulaski.

The Wilkinson-Martin House is thought to be among the last remaining Federal style house in Pulaski. The Greek Revival style dominated the remainder of the antebellum period and a number of examples of these impressive houses are still extant in Pulaski.

Wilkinson was a farmer, an experienced mechanic, and a small business owner who made cotton gins. Primarily grown on small plantations in Giles County, cotton was the principal crop in the years before the Civil War and the cotton gin trade must have been brisk. According to the 1850 census, Wilkinson was a successful small manufacturer with property valued at $16,000. Ten years later he was worth over $60,000. He was a prominent person in the history of Pulaski and Giles County because he was chosen to oversee the construction of the fourth Giles County courthouse, designed by Adolphus Heiman and finished in 1859. This brick courthouse burned down in 1907 and was replaced with the present one. Based on his trade and experience, it is commonly believed that Wilkinson was also the designer and builder of his own home.

During Wilkinson's ownership of the property, Pulaski and Middle Tennessee were greatly impacted by the Civil War and Reconstruction. No major battle was fought in Pulaski, but its location on the Nashville & Decatur Railroad led to much activity during the war. The county came under Federal occupation in 1862 and remained under their control for several years. A Federal army camp was established along the ridge of Fort Hill just northwest of downtown, and just west of the Wilkinson-Martin House. Later during the war, the Fort Hill area became a contraband camp for escaped slaves. Following the war, blacks at the camp began to establish residences in the northwest section of Pulaski, near the area of the Wilkinson-Martin House. These settlement patterns during the Reconstruction era continued into the early to mid-twentieth century and led to the construction of Bridgeforth High School (NR 8/9/06) and other African American institutions in this neighborhood. During this period, the Wilkinson-Martin House was left unaltered, and it represented an early phase of Pulaski's history as the city struggled to redefine and redevelop itself following the war. A few residential properties began to appear in the area, but the Wilkinson-Martin House retained its rural character and was still mostly isolated in the landscape.

After Wilkinson's death in 1875, the house and property was willed to his daughter, Mary L. Martin, who was married to David S. Martin. Martin had moved to Pulaski in 1854, and served as an adjutant in the 3rd Tennessee Infantry Regiment. Martin also had a significant role in Pulaski's history. After the war, he was a well-respected businessman in the community and served twice as mayor of Pulaski while living in this house. Martin died in 1887 leaving behind his wife Mary. Mary maintained the house until she died in 1908. Mary willed the house to her niece Willie M. Martin who resided there until 1922. During this period, few changes were made to the house. The surrounding neighborhood retained its rural setting on the northern outskirts of Pulaski. Early houses were beginning to appear around the turn of the century, but those were scattered and few are extant today. Modern development would soon begin to have a major impact on the

surrounding landscape, but up until 1922, the Wilkinson-Martin House stood out in the rural landscape as a prominent residence on the outskirts of town.

David E. Martin, Willie M. Martin's son, was given the house in 1922. David E. Martin or his wife Martha maintained the house from 1922 until 1968. During this time, the house was updated with plumbing, but no major changes were made to the structure. This period saw major changes in the surrounding community. Residential properties, both frame and brick, were constructed as residential patterns in Pulaski moved north. Several of these homes are extant and surround the Wilkinson-Martin House. Commercial development also impacted North 1st Street as Pulaski spread northward during the middle of the twentieth century. In addition, public works projects made an impact on the immediate surroundings, as seen in the 1936 WPA Bridgeforth High School and the mid-twentieth century public housing complex across North 1st Street. During this period from 1922 to 1968, the Wilkinson-Martin property was enveloped into the urban fabric of Pulaski. Although no longer isolated on the outskirts of town, the Wilkinson-Martin house maintains its prominent location along North 1st Street and stands as an excellent intact example of the early settlement period of Pulaski.

David E. Martin died in 1967, and the house was left to his wife Martha until 1968 when it was sold to Henry H. Sims, the Industrial Arts teacher at the African American Bridgeforth High School located just across Highway 31. Sims lived in a house adjacent to the Wilkinson-Martin House from 1945, when he began teaching at Bridgeforth, until he purchased the house in 1968. Sims was a prominent member of the African American community of Pulaski and had developed a close friendship with Martin and his wife.

Currently the house belongs to Vivian Sims, and is used as a community activities center. The house is also used for private functions. Numerous organizations, such as the Giles County Historical Society, regularly employ this house to facilitate gatherings.

The Wilkinson-Martin House is an impressive example of the Federal style, which although once very popular, is no longer common in the area. The Wilkinson-Martin House is one of the only remaining examples of the Federal style in Pulaski. In addition, it is probably the oldest extant house in Pulaski. The house maintains most of its original materials from the weatherboarding, windows and shutters, and entranceway, to the interior floors, mantels, and staircase. There have been some alterations to the house, including the enclosing of the back porch in 1978 and the replacement of the front porch posts in the early 1970s. Other conservation steps have been taken including the replacement of the roof and gutters. However, due to the amount of original material still present, the architectural integrity is an outstanding feature of this house. The Wilkinson-Martin House, the last remaining Federal-style dwelling in Pulaski, is an important architectural survivor that deserves recognition.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Butler, Margaret. "A Guide to Historic Sites and Places of Interest in Giles County, Tennessee". Pulaski, TN: Self Published, 1995

Carley, Rachel. *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture.* New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1994.

Cohen, Nelle R. *Pulaski History.* Pulaski, TN: M. Cohen, 1951.

Dunavant, Richard H. *The Francis Wilkinson House.* Pulaski, TN: Giles County Historical Society, 1989.

McCallum, James. *A Brief Sketch of the Settlement and Early History of Giles County Tennessee.* Pulaski, TN: Pulaski *Citizen*, 1928.

Obituary of Mrs. D.S. Martin. *Pulaski Citizen.* June 11, 1908.

Obituary of F.H. Wilkinson. *Pulaski Citizen.* August 12, 1875.

Obituary of Angeline Wilkinson. *Pulaski Citizen.* October 15, 1874.

Obituary of David S. Martin. *Pulaski Citizen.* March 24, 1887.

Patrick, James. *Architecture in Tennessee: 1768-1897.* Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1981.

Phelps, Johnny. "Wilkinson-Martin-Sims House Offers Look at Christmas Past." *The Giles Free Press.* December 7, 1989.

Porch, Deane. *Giles County, Tennessee: 1850 Census.* Nashville: BTA, 1971.

Sims, Vivian. "Wilkinson, Martin, Sims House Greets Travelers." *The Giles Free Press.* April 8, 1999.

State of Tennessee, Giles County Court Clerk's Office. Estate of F.H. Wilkinson. Order Book 5, p. 204. Pulaski, 1875.

State of Tennessee, Giles County Court Clerk's Office. Will of F. H. Wilkinson. Will Book B, pp. 242-245. Pulaski, 1875.

State of Tennessee, Giles County Court Clerk's Office. Will of Mrs. Mary L. Martin. Will Book C, pp. 404-407. Pulaski, 1908.

State of Tennessee, Giles County N.F.L.A. Abstract of Title of Land Owned by D.E. Martin, by David E. Cheatham. Pulaski, 1934.

State of Tennessee, Giles County Register's Office. Deed of Trust. R.E.M. Book 14, p. 438. Pulaski, 1922.

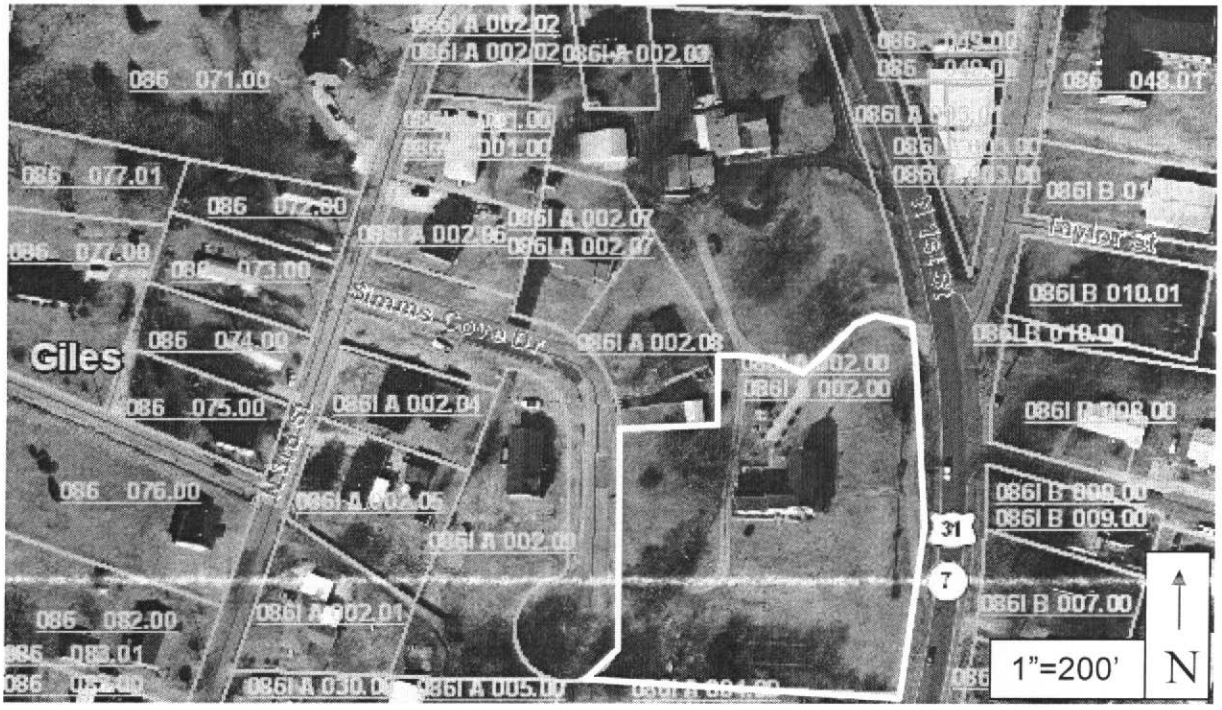
State of Tennessee, Giles County Register's Office. Deed of Trust to Henry H. Sims, by David E. Cheatham. R.E.M. Book 108. Pulaski, 1968.

State of Tennessee, Giles County Register's Office. Warranty Deed. Deed Book 91, p. 537. Pulaski, 1924.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The Wilkinson-Martin House is located north of downtown Pulaski, Tennessee. The nominated property makes up the southern half, or approximately 2 acres, of the 4-acre parcel shown as parcel 086I A 001.00 on the attached Giles County Tax Map. It is roughly bounded on the east by North 1st Street, or Highway 31; on the south and west by residential parcels; and on the north by the driveway that runs from North 1st Street west onto the property. The nominated portion of the parcel includes all of the extant property currently associated with the Wilkinson-Martin House.



PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs by: Michael Gavin, Catherine Hawkins, and Elizabeth Moore
MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Date: January 2009, April 2009

Digital Files: Tennessee Historical Commission
Nashville, Tennessee

1 of 24	East Façade, photographer facing west
2 of 24	East Façade, photographer facing west
3 of 24	Front Entrance, photographer facing west
4 of 24	South Elevation, photographer facing north
5 of 24	West Elevation, photographer facing east
6 of 24	North Elevation, photographer facing south
7 of 24	North Elevation, photographer facing south
8 of 24	Front Hall, Interior, photographer facing east
9 of 24	Front Hall, Interior, photographer facing southwest
10 of 24	North Parlor, Interior, photographer facing northwest
11 of 24	North Parlor, Interior, photographer facing north
12 of 24	South Parlor, Interior, photographer facing southwest
13 of 24	Rear Parlor, Interior, photographer facing west
14 of 24	Dining Room, Interior, photographer facing southeast
15 of 24	Kitchen, Interior, photographer facing northwest

16 of 24	Enclosed Porch, Interior, photographer facing east
17 of 24	Front Hall Stair, Interior, photographer facing west
18 of 24	Stair, Interior, photographer facing northeast
19 of 24	Sitting Area, Interior, photographer facing south
20 of 24	North Bedroom, Interior, photographer facing north
21 of 24	South Bedroom, Interior, photographer facing south
22 of 24	Hall, Interior, photographer facing west
23 of 24	West Bedroom, Interior, photographer facing north-northeast
24 of 24	West Bedroom, Interior, photographer facing west

954