

2/27

1/85

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received
date entered

to Wash
3-22-85

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic House, Judge Isaac Wilson

and or common

2. Location

street & number 406 East Wilson Street (southeast corner — not for publication
Prairie and Wilson)

city, town Batavia, — vicinity of

state Illinois code 012 county Kane code 089

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Peter McIntyre

street & number 713 East 30th Street

city, town Bryan, Texas — vicinity of state Texas 77803

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kane County Government Center, Recorder's Office

street & number South Batavia Avenue

city, town Geneva state Illinois 60134

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title none other than Batavia has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no
Historical Society

date 1972-80 ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Judge Isaac Wilson House is a simple IL vernacular Greek Revival frame house. The two story portion, 23½x30½ feet, has eight double hung windows on ground level with three double hung on upper level-as well as five eyebrow windows on east and west facade. Main entry is at north northeast corner with six panel two inch thick door. Washroom/woodshed entry on west southwest corner was a six foot wide sliding door with an interior limestone cistern in the northwest corner. A six panel door on the east side entered the kitchen. The woodshed/kitchen portion is 23 x 23½, with five double hung windows. Clapboard siding and wooden shingles. First floor interior doors are six panels with four panel doors on the second floor. Trim throughout the house has an applied molding. Floors are of ash and chestnut; walnut posts and beams are boxed and painted. Three parlor windows have raised panels beneath the sashes. Off white calcaminated walls are of plaster over riven lathing except in the entry hall where there is a soft red paint on both levels. Staircase is of walnut with square spindles slightly turned newel post. The fireplace room occupied the southeast two thirds of the south end of the two story portion. Just west of it was a small room which had hinged double doors. The brick fireplace complex had a crane, a beehive oven Vented into the chimney and an ash pit. The surround was of simple style with mantle board. On either side of the fireplace complex where it juts out from the south wall, there are chimney cupboards built in where the chimney narrows. Upstairs is a hall and three bedrooms. The north bedroom has a closet with eyebrow window. The slanted fireplace chimney goes up the south wall of the two south bedrooms at a slant of 2½" per foot with the bricks partially exposed. The two story section has a full riverstone basement divided into two rooms by an 18" thick limestone wall. There are four basement windows, partially below grade and a below grade limestone entry in the southwest corner. Immediately to the left of this entry is a massive stone and walnut beam support for the fireplace complex with storage shelves built into the stone. An inside basement entry from the fireplace room is beneath the hall staircase. Throughout the house, posts, beams, stairs, hind-hewn sills, log floor joists, studs, are all of walnut. Floors are of ash and chestnut. The kitchen wing is entered from both sides of fireplace complex. The dome of the beehive oven protrudes into the kitchen north wall with a stove flue above and to the left. There is a crawl space under the kitchen/woodshed area. Just outside the woodshed door is a large riverstone mounting block. PRESENT appearance:

Facade remains the same with exception of 2/2 sashes, woodshed door replaced with 3 three foot wide six panel entry door in 1882 when woodshed was made into a pantry and storage room, laundry room. Cistern intact. At this time the kitchen was divided to create a bath room on the west side and the floor level of all was raised five inches to make it level with remainder of house. Old floor remains. New and old interior walls were covered with five inch southern pine tongue and grooved horizontal boards which were varnished. The varnish is now painted. The fireplace room was enlarged with the removal of the partition to the west room. The fireplace surround was removed but store and is in hand except for the mantle board. The newel post, railing, and some spindles are removed but a drawing by a former resident is available for restoration. The house has a recent new cedar roof, plumbing, wiring, heating, and insulation. Some restoration of the west and south overhang must be done.

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The house enjoys much privacy even though it is on a corner lot. Placed well back on the lot, trees and shrubbery and a south picket fence add to its seclusion.

Bounded on the south, east and northwest by private homes which are well-kept, the west side of Prairie is occupied by a corner filling station while an auto parts business on the northeast corner of Prairie and Wilson.

Since 1850 the Burlington-Northern railway (which is now only a spur) crosses in front of the present boundary line. Two trains come daily which is a reminder when the Wilsons could board the train at their front lawn to go to Chicago or to Aurora.

This near 1/2 acre lot has five large maple trees, lilac bushes, grape vines, berry bushes, and cherry and peach trees, along with a few early varieties of flowers.

Landmarks Preservation Council is writing a facade and lot easement to ensure the future of the property.

The north entry surround may have been altered across the top. Although the owners replaced two pieces of siding directly above the framing (and kept the pieces removed), no evidence of any previous design or any paint shadows give any clues.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
..... prehistoric	..... archeology-prehistoric	..... community planning	..... landscape architecture	..... religion	
..... 1400-1499	..... archeology-historic	..... conservation	..... law	..... science	
..... 1500-1599	..... agriculture	..... economics	..... literature	..... sculpture	
..... 1600-1699	X architecture	..... education	..... military	..... social/	
..... 1700-1799	..... art	..... engineering	..... music	..... humanitarian	
X 1800-1899	..... commerce	..... exploration/settlement	..... philosophy	..... theater	
..... 1900-	..... communications	..... industry	..... politics/government	..... transportation	
		..... invention		X other (specify)	
			..... Prominent settler		

Specific dates 1843-1848

Builder Architect Judge Isaac Wilson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Historical:
 In 1835, two years after the first settler arrived, Judge Isaac Wilson, age 55, brought his wife and seven grown children (two of whom were married) to Batavia, IL from Batavia, NY. Having served as a captain in the war of 1812, he had been a member of NY state assembly 1816-17, state senator 1818-21, Genessee County Court Judge 182-23, member 18th Congress 1823-24, Genessee County judge again 1830-35. On arrival, he purchased for \$1500 the 1/2 section claim of Batavia's first settler Payne on which stood a 14'x16' log cabin.
 In 1836 this cabin was the polling place of the first Sandusky precinct election and of his daughter's marriage to Dr. Henry Miller, first doctor in Geneva. (One daughter was already married to Joseph Churchill, Batavia's first attorney. Churchill was elected State Senator in 1836). Also in 1836, the Judge and his wife Susannah Doran were two of the original members of the Baptist Church.
 Judge Wilson's only son, Isaac Grant, was a prominent county and circuit judge in Kane County for many years, so that the elder judge was known as Daddy Wilson. In 1847 a bridge was built across the Fox River and its only street crossing the river was named Wilson in the senior judge's honor.
 In 1840 Wilson was given the honor of naming the town of Batavia. In 1841 he was chosen its first postmaster and served in that capacity until Fall 1846. Local historians think the Wilson home was also the postoffice. As postmaster, he rode to Naperville every two weeks to get the mail which he would deliver along the route home, calling out across the river to a settler to have the postage ready for a piece of mail. Often the two weeks mail would be only 3 or 4 letters.
 In 1845 Wilson built this house of local woods (Batavia had a saw mill) and lived there until his death in 1848. The house remained in the family for many years afterward. The Wilson name frequently appears in descriptions of real estate as three subdivisions on the east side of town are named for him or his heirs. Why Wilson came from New York is not known but a friend and political associate, Colonel Joseph Lyon, had arrived here with his family in 1834.
 No further references to Judge Wilson are in any of the Batavia research sources. The present mayor of Batavia is a descendent. In 1983 he went to New York seeking information on why the family came to Batavia, IL and found nothing in writing.
Architecturally, the house is of simple Illinois vernacular Greek Revival style. Repeated walking and windshield surveys reveal other frame houses of similar style but they have been enlarged with additions, facade changes. The owners surveyed many houses in town and discovered that if the early houses had beehive ovens, they have been removed. Batavia has many later, more formal Greek Revival style houses, both in frame and riverstone. The house is representative of several built in Batavia in the early years but it is one which has not been altered on the facade except for window pane replacement to 2/2 and the wood shed door changed to three foot entry door in 1882. The interior has suffered little change architecturally. Its interior trim, six panel doors with original hardware intact, parlor

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window raised panels, indoor cistern, working fireplace complex with original crane in place, beehive oven and ashpit, five eyebrow windows all with original glass, are architectural features which are seldom found in houses of this date in Batavia, now. Most of the original hardware is extant.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Historic Batavia John A Gustafson/Jeffery C. Schielke, Batavia Historical Society, Batavia, IL, 1980, The Batavia Historian, John Gustafson, no date, Batavia Historical Society, Biographical and Historical Record of Kane County Volume 1, Copy 1 and Copy 3, Beers, Liggett and Company, Chicago, 1888, all on file in Batavia Public Library, Batavia, IL 60510

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Just under 1/2 acre

Quadrangle name Aurora North Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

16	392000	4633740
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing

C

Zone	Easting	Northing

D

Zone	Easting	Northing

E

Zone	Easting	Northing

F

Zone	Easting	Northing

G

Zone	Easting	Northing

H

Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification Lot 5 of F.C.Snow's Subdivision of Lot 21 of C. Leipoler Subdivision of Lot 15 of M#1 of Isaac Wilson Estate in City of Batavia, County of Kane, IL Wilson St. Frontage 135.2', Prairie St. 130.32' South boundary 145.0', East Boundary 192.24

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Eve Johnson

organization _____

date 1/10/1985

street & number 41 W 483 Beith Road

telephone 312-584-4034

city or town Elburn

state Illinois 60119

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature William G. Farmer

title Deputy S.H.P.O.

date 3/21/85

For NPS use only

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

date _____

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date _____

Chief of Registration