

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received MAY 26 1982  
date entered JUN 28 1982

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

## 1. Name

historic John Calvin Wilson House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number On the south side of S.C. Hwy. 512, approximately 3.7 miles northwest of its junction with S.C. Hwy. 261 N/A not for publication

city, town Indiantown vicinity of congressional district

state South Carolina code 045 county Williamsburg code 089

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

## 4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Virginia Snowden

street & number C.M.R. Box 159

city, town Summerville vicinity of state South Carolina 29483

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Williamsburg County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Kingstree state South Carolina 29556

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1978  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

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## 7. Description

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**Condition** excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The John Calvin Wilson House, in rural Williamsburg County near Indiantown, is a two-story, frame central-hall farmhouse reputedly built ca. 1847. According to tradition, George Cooper of Williamsburg County built the house for his daughter, Jane McCottry Cooper, who married John Calvin Wilson in 1847.

The John Calvin Wilson House is a rectangular, two-story, five-bay building, sheathed in weatherboard, with a gable roof. The foundation is tall brick piers. A shed roofed, one-story porch spans the facade (northeast elevation). The porch roof is supported by four stuccoed brick columns. A balustraded porch is recessed behind these columns. The first story of the facade, beneath the porch roof, is sheathed in flushboard. The entrance, a six-panel door with sidelights, is centered on the facade. The windows are nine-over-nine with paneled shutters. A boxed cornice with returns marks the eaves. The gable roof is covered with composition shingles.

The side elevations feature massive brick end chimneys laid in common bond with each fourth course bonding. The left-side (southeast) chimney has been rebuilt, probably around 1880. Single windows flank the chimneys on each story. Rectangular attic vents with hinged shutters are in each gable end. The rear (southwest) elevation of the house originally had a shed roofed porch similar to the front porch. The porch was enclosed in the 1870s and two new brick chimneys built for the rooms thus created. In 1939, a one-story, frame wing containing a bedroom, a bath, and a screened porch, was added to the rear of the house.

The John Calvin Wilson House has a heavy timber braced frame. The framing members are both adzed and pit-sawn and are connected with wooden pegs. The original framing members are visible in the attic and in the foundation.

Interior: The house has a central-hall plan with a single room on either side of the hall. The floors, doors, hardware, and door and window surrounds are original. Ceilings in the original portion of the house are wide planks on the first floor and plaster on the second floor. The right (west) room on the first floor has grained wainscoting. The walls of the house are plaster covered with wallpaper. The mantels are of wood with minimal elaboration. Most of the doors feature Carpenter's Patented boxlocks except for the second floor west bedroom, which has an S. Smith Improved Rim Lock.

The L-shaped stairway in the hall has the original handrail, treads, and balusters. At the front of the hall on the second story is a small closet with a fixed wooden ladder leading to the attic. The attic rafters were hewn with an adze and then shaped by pit-saw and were joined with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints.

Surroundings: There are two brick outbuildings on the nominated acreage. To the southeast of the house is the old kitchen, a rectangular brick building with its original chimney missing. The kitchen has a metal-covered roof. It is still used, on occasion, for barbecues. To the southwest is the original smokehouse, a rectangular brick building with a cypress-shingle roof. The smokehouse has iron bars in its windows and large iron strap hinges holding its door. The smokehouse is still used to smoke meats. At the rear of the house is a twentieth century frame outbuilding. A frame garage is to the northwest of the house. The John Calvin Wilson House is surrounded by open farmland and by pine forest.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history
<input type="checkbox"/> invention				

**Specific dates** ca. 1847 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The John Calvin Wilson House is located near the Indiantown community in rural Williamsburg County, South Carolina. It is believed to have been constructed ca. 1847 by George Cooper for his daughter, Jane McCottry Cooper, who married John Calvin Wilson. The house is a good example of a backcountry farmhouse, of which few remain in the county. Included in the nominated property are two original brick outbuildings which, with the house, form an architecturally significant complex. In addition, John Calvin Wilson was a locally prominent planter and politician.

Additional Information: The John Calvin Wilson House was reputedly constructed ca. 1847 by George Cooper for his daughter, Jane McCottry Cooper, about the time of her marriage.<sup>1</sup> In 1847, Jane married John Calvin Wilson, uniting two of the oldest families in Williamsburg County.<sup>2</sup> The John Calvin Wilson House is one of four houses George Cooper built for each of his children. All of the houses are still standing; however, the John Calvin Wilson House is perhaps the most intact.<sup>3</sup>

John Calvin Wilson, born in Williamsburg County on 16 November 1824, served in the Forty-Second General Assembly of South Carolina and was a successful planter. The census of 1860 shows that he owned \$9,960 in real estate, personal property worth \$32,665, and forty slaves.<sup>4</sup> Wilson served in the state militia and held the ranks of captain and major.<sup>5</sup> Local tradition holds that Wilson lost re-election for his post as major and subsequently joined the Confederate Army as an enlisted man. He was listed as a sergeant in the Fourth Calvary at the time of his death in 1864. Wilson died in Jackson Hospital in Richmond, Virginia, of complications from a thigh wound sustained in the Battle of Cold Harbor.<sup>6</sup>

Architecture: The John Calvin Wilson House is representative of the vernacular central-hall, frame farmhouse that was common throughout the United States in the early and middle nineteenth century. The form is identified by a central transverse hallway with a staircase (if a second story is present); single square or rectangular rooms, equivalent in size, on either side of the hallway; a central entrance into the hallway; chimneys located either at the ends of the house on the outside walls of the side rooms, or centered on either interior partition; regular fenestration with windows either centered or balanced in their respective rooms' walls; and a roof ridge perpendicular to the axis defined by the central hall. The form was often doubled, with a second set of rooms and an extension of the central hall to the rear. The form was adapted across South Carolina and often elaborated with diverse stylistic features.

The John Calvin Wilson House with its hewn, pegged, heavy timber braced frame is also representative of the building technology of the eighteenth and early nineteenth century in South Carolina. This framework utilized large timbers connected with mortise-and-tenon joints and wooden pegs. The major posts and girders were braced with diagonal timbers. Smaller wooden members, called studs, were located in between the major posts. This type of framing was superseded in the later nineteenth century by balloon framing -- a mode invented by George Snow of Chicago in 1832. Balloon framing consists of smaller (scantling)

Continued

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 4.2  
 Quadrangle name Hyman, S.C. Longitude: W 79° 39' 55" Quadrangle scale 1:62500  
 UMT References Latitude: N 33° 45' 24"

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property is shown as the red line on the accompanying Williamsburg County Tax Map #322, drawn at a scale of 1 inch = 330 feet. This boundary includes the house, the historic outbuildings, and the pine allee leading to the house, while excluding the nonhistoric farm buildings and the surrounding acreage.

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

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Suzanne Pickens Wylie John Wells	Edmund Kirby-Smith, Waccamaw Regional Planning and Development Council
organization	South Carolina Department of Archives and History	date December 29, 1981
street & number	1430 Senate Street Post Office Box 11,669	telephone (803) 758-5816
city or town	Columbia	state South Carolina 29211

# 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 Charles E. Lee July 4, 1982  
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date

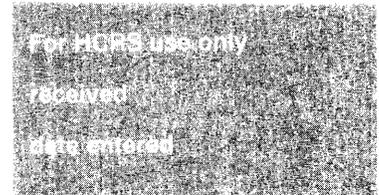
For NPS use only

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

William H. Brannan date 6.28.82  
 Keeper of the National Register  
 Attest: Carl D. Dinkie date 6/28/82  
 Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet 1

Item number 8

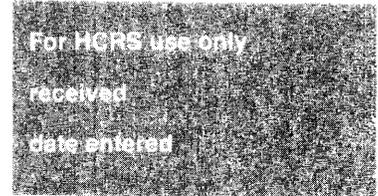
Page 1

wooden members, sawn rather than hewn, and connected, not with elaborate joints and pegs, but with mass produced iron nails. Balloon framing was not widely used in South Carolina until after the Civil War.

The John Calvin Wilson House is in a remarkable state of preservation. Most of the original fabric is intact. The additions to the rear of the house have not compromised its integrity. The setting, with the outbuildings, pine trees, and cultivated fields, is also intact.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet 2

Item number 9

Page 1

Boddie, William Lewis. History of Williamsburg County. Columbia, S.C.: The State Company, 1923.

Census of the United States, 1860 (Williamsburg County, South Carolina). National Archives Microfilm Publications, microcopy m-536, roll 1228.

Census of the United States, 1860, Slave Schedules (Williamsburg County, South Carolina). National Archives Microfilm Publications, microcopy 653, roll 1238.

Columbia, South Carolina. South Carolina Department of Archives and History. National Register Files. Virginia Wilson Snowden to Edmund Kirby-Smith, 18 September 1980.

Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations From South Carolina, Fourth Calvary, Sn-Z. National Archives Microfilm Publications, microcopy 267, roll 30.

Consolidated Index to Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers, Wilmut-Wilson, Joel. National Archives Microfilm Publications, microcopy 253, roll 521.

Edgar, Walter B., ed. Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House of Representatives. Vol. 1. Columbia, S.C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1974.

Hemingway, South Carolina Bicentennial Tour of Historic Sites. n.p., 1976.

John Calvin Wilson House  
Footnotes

<sup>1</sup>Hemingway, South Carolina Bicentennial Tour of Historic Sites (n.p., 1976).

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.; William Lewis Boddie, History of Williamsburg County (Columbia, S.C.: The State Co., 1923), pp. 21-22.

<sup>3</sup>Bicentennial Tour.

<sup>4</sup>Walter B. Edgar, ed., Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House of Representatives, vol. 1 (Columbia, S.C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1974), p. 377; Census of the United States, 1860 (Williamsburg County, S.C.), National Archives Microfilm Publications, microcopy m-536, roll 228, p. 94; Census of the United States, 1860, Slave Schedules (Williamsburg County, S.C.), National Archives Microfilm Publications, microcopy 653, roll 1238, pp. 101-102; Virginia Wilson Snowden to Edmund Kirby-Smith, 18 September 1980, National Register Files, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, South Carolina.

<sup>5</sup>Boddie, p. 354-355.

<sup>6</sup>Boddie, p. 354-355; Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations From South Carolina, Fourth Calvary, Sn-Z, National Archives Microfilm Publications, microcopy 267, roll 30; Consolidated Index to Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Wilmut-Wilson, Joel, National Archives Microfilm Publications, microcopy 253, roll 521.