

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register Listed
July 6, 2010

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 Wilson, Fred D., House
other names/site number 173-5880-01022

2. Location

street & number 205 N Pershing not for publication
city or town Wichita vicinity
state Kansas code KS county Sedgwick code 173 zip code 67208

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.)

/ Deputy SHPO

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
State Historic Preservation Office, Kansas Historical Society
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.)

SEE FILE
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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Wilson, Fred D., House
Name of Property

Sedgwick County, Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing Noncontributing

| | | | |
|-------|--|--|------------|
| 1 | | | |
| _____ | | | buildings |
| _____ | | | sites |
| _____ | | | structures |
| _____ | | | objects |
| 1 | | | Total |

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

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Residential Resources of Wichita – 1870-1957

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Domestic: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American
Movements: Prairie-style

foundation Concrete
walls Brick

roof Ludowici French Tile
other _____

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)

Community Planning & Development
Architecture

Period of Significance

1929 - 1935

Significant Dates

1929

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

John C. Neely, Jr. (1894 – 1985)

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:
City of Wichita Historic Preservation Office

Wilson, Fred D., House
Name of Property

Sedgwick County, Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 14 651530 4172440
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
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 Jeff A. Roth; edited by KSHS staff
organization _____ date _____
street & number 205 N. Pershing telephone 316-684-1919
city or town Wichita state KS zip code 67208

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 Jeffrey A. and Cynthia U. Roth
street & number 205 N. Pershing telephone 316-684-1919
city or town Wichita state KS zip code 67208

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wilson, Fred D., House
Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas
Residential Resources of Wichita, KS - 1870-1957

Section number 7 Page 1

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The square mile encompassing the College Hill neighborhood consists of a gradually upward slope from the downtown district to the east, approximately 75 feet above the Arkansas River. In the 1880s this area was intended to be developed as a suburban residential area, but only a handful of homes were built before a real estate market collapse halted building activity. The majority of the homes in College Hill were built between 1917 and 1935 during a period of post-WWI economic growth in the city of Wichita. The Wilson house is located in the northeast quadrant, an area that reflects cohesiveness in construction materials and architectural elements. The quadrant is comprised of large two-story masonry houses.

The City of Wichita issued a building permit for the construction of the Wilson House on May 6, 1929. Its construction was completed before the end of the year. It is two stories in height with a finished basement and attached two-car garage. The foundation is concrete and the exterior is tan brick veneer. The planes of the intersecting hipped roof are covered with red French tile. There are two broad, flat chimneys. Carved brackets support the wide, boxed overhanging eaves. The main part of the house features modified foursquare plan with open porches on the east (front) and west (rear) elevations. The east porch features a large cast stone lintel supported by brick piers.

The east (front) elevation is asymmetrical with a projecting bay at the north end and an open one-story porch with a hipped roof extending to the south. The projecting bay includes a one-story projection with battered walls, a 50-light casement window, and a flat roof encircled by an iron railing – creating a faux balcony. A concrete sidewalk leads to the tiled front porch, its threshold flanked by two short-capped brick piers. The central entrance includes a single (wood with glass) door with sidelights. South of the front door is an impressive set of five 8-light casement windows on the first story. There are three sets of windows on the second story: a set of five 8-light casement windows on the south end, a set of four 6-light casement windows centered above the entrance, and another set of five 8-light casement windows in the projecting bay. A cast stone trim encircles every window on the house.

The south (side) elevation features a one-story sunroom with a set of 70-light casement windows facing south and 10-light casement windows facing west. There is a single-door (with sidelights) entrance into the sun porch on the east elevation. North of the sun room along the west (rear) elevation is an open-air rear porch with an entrance to the living quarters which featuring a single (wood with glass) door with sidelights. The second story adjacent to the west porch features a pair of French doors (wood with glass) opening to an iron balcony supported by wrought iron brackets. An additional focal point of the west (rear) elevation is a wisteria-covered pergola spanning the width of the driveway.

The rear elevation includes an intersecting bay that houses a two-car garage with a sleeping porch above. The south-facing elevation of this intersecting bay includes two single-car garage doors with horizontal rows of casement windows above. The west-facing elevation of this intersecting bay features decorative brickwork

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wilson, Fred D., House
Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas
Residential Resources of Wichita, KS - 1870-1957

Section number 7 Page 2

in a rectangular pattern on the first story and a horizontal row of casement windows above. A breezeway connects the garage with a bay window for the informal dining area.

The north elevation includes a variety of casement window sizes, including 16-light, 8-light, and 6-light groupings, all rectangular and all trimmed with cast stone.

Interior

When the house was constructed, it was drawn as a four-bedroom home including a master suite and rooms for the three Wilson daughters Winifred, Iris and Harriet. Between two of the daughters' bedrooms is a dressing room with a cedar closet featuring tri-fold mirrored doors and a mirrored vanity wall cabinet (the vanity table itself no longer exists). Today, the Wilson residence is still considered a 4-bedroom 2 full- and 2 half-bath house.

The first floor has hardwood floors, massive crown molding, and moderately sized dark mahogany trim with a simple rectangular profile. The paneled wood doors feature nickel escutcheon plates and faceted glass knobs. A large archway leads from the front entry vestibule to the formal dining room. Within the main hall is a wide staircase with a wrought iron railing. The balusters alternate between wrought iron scrolls and straight iron supports topped with customer wrought handrail. The original light fixtures in the front stair hall, dining room and first floor office no longer exist and have been replaced with Craftsman style fixtures. The interior walls are of plaster construction.

There are large rooms on either side of the main hall, the living room to the south and the dining room to the north, with an I-beam supported span creating an open approach to the living room. The living room features two sets of sunroom doors on either side of the large marble fireplace with a large-scale flared wood surround. Other openings include the large set of windows to the east and the exterior door with sidelights to the west.

The focal point of the dining room is an arched entry and pair of north facing windows. A pocket door leads to the kitchen. The kitchen is modern. The most recent kitchen renovation (1994) incorporated a former maid's stairway into the design. At the same time, the adjacent pantry space was incorporated into the kitchen and informal dining space. The house now has only front stairs. At the top of the former rear (maid's) stairs, from the upstairs hall, there remains a storage closet, linen cabinets and a laundry chute.

The four bedrooms on this floor feature simple details such as ivory painted low profile window and door trim and carpeted floors. There is a master suite with his and her clothes closets and a working gas fireplace. Each room in the house, on both floors, features at least one steam heat radiator. The radiant heating system is fully functioning, having been updated with a new boiler in 2008. Zoned forced air gas furnaces with air conditioning exist but are used primarily for summer air conditioning. Heating is primarily accomplished by the radiant heat system.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wilson, Fred D., House
Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas
Residential Resources of Wichita, KS - 1870-1957

Section number 7 Page 3

When the Wilson House was completed it featured a fully finished basement that was rather uncommon for the period. It boasts several rooms including a large game room with a fireplace, workshop room, laundry room, and boiler room with fuel (coal) room (designed but not used as such due to the availability of natural gas by the time of the home's original occupation). The game room, laundry room, workroom and boiler room have large daylight window bays with casement windows. The laundry room features stainless steel wash sinks and table and the laundry chute that extends from the second floor.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wilson, Fred D., House
Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas
Residential Resources of Wichita, KS - 1870-1957

Section number 8 Page 4

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wilson House (1929) is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural significance as a good local example of residential Prairie-style architecture. It is also nominated under Criterion A for its association with the development of the College Hill neighborhood. The period of significance spans from 1929, the year the building permit was filed, to 1935 the year that the College Hill Neighborhood was considered fully developed. The property is being nominated as part of the Residential Resources of Wichita multiple property listing.

College Hill Neighborhood Development¹

Wichita's College Hill neighborhood consists of one square mile bounded by Hillside Avenue on the west, Central Avenue on the north, Oliver Street on the east, and Kellogg Avenue on the south. The Wilson House is located in the northeastern quadrant of the neighborhood. College Hill is densely populated and boasts over 1,800 residential and commercial buildings. The neighborhood contains a variety of architectural styles including Art Deco, Queen Anne, eclectic styles, Tudor and Colonial Revival, and Craftsman to name a few. But above all, it is a diverse collection of buildings ranging from modest bungalows to extravagant mansions.²

Much of the subdivision was marketed to wealthy homebuyers who were the locally and regionally prominent business people of the time. Through the formative years of the neighborhood these individuals included businessmen, bankers, speculators, builders, architects, oilmen, merchants, physicians, educators, attorneys, and legislators (including at least two former Kansas governors). Nineteen top executives and family members from one company alone, the Coleman Lamp and Stove Company, were identified with the College Hill Neighborhood.³

In order to achieve the air of exclusivity that the developers intended, they attached restrictions to the deeds in the form of covenants. Roughly half of the one square acre area was developed with varying degrees of restrictions such as minimum lot sizes, setbacks, orientation, minimum building cost, number of stories, and type of landscaping.⁴ Many of the restricted subdivisions also excluded African-American residents or lessees.⁵ The other half of the College Hill development had no restrictions at all.

¹ This overview of College Hill was compiled by KSHS staff and is taken from the "W. O. Van Arsdale House" National Register of Historic Places nomination, 2009. Accessed online at:

http://www.kshs.org/resource/national_register/nominationsNRDB/Sedgwick_VanArsdaleWOHouseNR.pdf

² *Draft College Hill Survey Region IV*, Cost of residences appear to have varied widely from \$3,500 to well over \$50,000. The Wilson House was in the middle of this range at approximately \$27,000, as disclosed by the city permit.

³ Sheryll White and Terry Ward, *College Hill III Local Historic Resource Survey Report*, 29 June 1989, 31, On file at the Kansas Historical Society, Cultural Resources Division, 105.

⁴ *Draft College Hill Survey Region IV*. 63, Restrictions were placed on lots in Central Avenue Subdivision of Prospect Place Addition; East Lawn Addition; Hagny's Replat of Capital Hill Addition; Lincoln Heights Addition; Merriman Park Place Addition;

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wilson, Fred D., House
Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas
Residential Resources of Wichita, KS - 1870-1957

Section number 8 Page 5

The College Hill Neighborhood was developed primarily between 1884 and 1935. In 1884 the first plat of the College Hill Addition was filed and by 1935 the area was entirely developed. There were six phases of development defined by residential and commercial construction and the development of infrastructure: prior to 1884; 1884 to 1889; 1889 to 1907; 1907 to 1914; 1914 to 1917 and 1917 to 1935. The Wilson House (1929) was constructed during the final period, the greatest period of settlement.

Real estate development in Wichita, as in most other developing cities was characterized and shaped by the “boom and bust” economy of a growing region. These cyclical bouts of financial instability led to highs and lows in patterns of construction of both buildings and infrastructure and College Hill was no exception. Generally, the early neighborhoods of Wichita developed simultaneously and in all directions from the city center.⁶

Development Prior to 1884

During this period the square mile area (Section 23) that would become College Hill was divided among eight property owners and consisted of five farmsteads and a large orchard. Four roads corresponding to Central, Oliver, Kellogg and Hillside bounded the section.

1884-1889

During this period at least ten additions and six subdivisions were platted primarily in the western quadrants and a number of residences were constructed. The four transportation arteries were in place by 1887 and Douglas Avenue was extended from Hillside Avenue to Circle Drive by 1889. In 1886 a mule-drawn streetcar system was extended to College Hill and trees were planted along with way. The 1884 plat of the College Hill Addition also featured a rectangular park bounded by Park Avenue on all four sides. It was first surveyed on Saturday September 7, 1884 and described as:

“embrac[ing] 80 acres lying on both sides of the extension of Douglas Avenue and includes the south half of the Harvey farm and 40 acres belonging to A. C. Payne. There are about 30 lots of two and half acres each. All but three have already been sold. The tract lies on the edge of the hill exactly two miles east of the corner of Douglas and Lawrence Avenues.”⁷

Wasson Manor Addition. These areas were predominantly in the southeast, southwest, and northeast quadrants. The northwest quadrant does not appear to have had any restricted additions. The City waived many of these covenants in the early 1960s.

⁵ *Draft College Hill Survey Region IV*, 4, 75, 80. East Lawn Hagny’s, Lincoln Heights, and Merriman Park were restricted to white residents only.

⁶ Kathy Morgan and Barbara Hammond, *Residential Resources of Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas – 1870 -1957* National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form, on file at the Kansas Historical Society, Cultural Resources Division, E-20.
http://www.kshs.org/resource/national_register/MPS/Residential_Resources_of_WichitaDRAFT_mps.pdf

⁷ *Wichita Eagle*, Sunday, September 7, 1884, 4.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wilson, Fred D., House
Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas
Residential Resources of Wichita, KS - 1870-1957

Section number 8 Page 6

1889-1907

Limited construction occurred during this period of national depression and financial panic. However, the composition of College Hill changed as at least one new plat was filed and street improvements projects were undertaken. Other previously platted additions were legally dissolved by state legislative acts. According to the 1905 Ogle Atlas, all of College Hill was platted except for the northeast quarter of Section 23. The atlas depicted three public structures including a school, the Wichita Children's Home, and Wichita Country Club (corresponding to the development of a golf course). In the spring of 1889 an electric streetcar system was installed that entered the neighborhood on the western border from Second Street and extended south along Park Avenue (now Rutan Avenue). Architectural styles illustrated by the extant buildings, are Queen Anne, national folk, and Colonial Revival.

1907-1914

Construction during this period focused on the western portion of the northwest quadrant, with a lower density of development in the southwest quadrant and scattered development in the central portion of the northwest quadrant. At least 21 additions were platted during this time, created in all but the southeast quadrant. A total of 210 buildings, 205 of which were single-family dwellings, appeared on the 1914 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map in the segments of the neighborhood that were illustrated (Sanborn maps of this date did not encompass the entire College Hill development). Infrastructure improvements in the College Hill Neighborhood during this period included road paving, installation of water and sewer lines and the construction of a fire station. Outside of the neighborhood, a new bridge over Chisholm Creek, elevated railroad tracks, and construction of a railroad station impacted the neighborhood by improving access.

1914-1917

Approximately 58 buildings were constructed within this three-year period corresponding with World War I. They were predominantly single-family dwellings constructed in the western portions of the northwest and southwest quadrants. Infrastructure improvements during this time included street paving and the installation of storm sewer lines. There were a few additions platted during this period mostly in the northeast quadrant.

1917-1935

This period marked the largest building boom with over 1,300 completed construction projects. While most of the new buildings were single-family dwellings, there were several multi-family units and commercial buildings also constructed including five religious facilities. Commercial development was also stimulated along the transportation arteries within and bordering College Hill.

The stock market crash of 1929 and the ensuing Great Depression also mark this period. College Hill was still an exclusive area, but houses were being sold at bargain prices.⁸ The East Lawn subdivision appears to

⁸ White and Ward, 31.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wilson, Fred D., House
Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas
Residential Resources of Wichita, KS - 1870-1957

Section number 8 Page 7

have been the most affected. Many of the houses were purchased at the beginning of the Depression and the untimely purchases resulted in several foreclosures and second mortgages.⁹

Architecturally, the period from 1915 to 1935 is considered by architectural historians to represent the greatest change in American architecture due to the amount of variety displayed in new construction. College Hill residents were fascinated with English, French, and Mediterranean architecture and the attachment associated with these styles was attributed to the influence of World War I. It is thought that Americans embraced revival styles such as Tudor as a tribute to their European allies. 13

Prairie-style Architecture

This style originated in Chicago at the beginning of the 20th century and was developed by regional architects, including Frank Lloyd Wright, their work collectively becoming known as the Prairie School. As such, it is a style indigenous to America. Examples are found in 20th-century suburbs, principally in the Midwest. Prairie-style homes are associated with low-pitched hipped roofs with widely overhanging boxed eaves. They are often asymmetrical with the main mass contrasted with equally dominant, but lower, wings, porches or garages with hipped roofs. Most facades are of masonry with horizontal emphasis often achieved by horizontal rows or ribbons of casement windows. Massive square or rectangular piers of masonry, with contrasting caps, used to support porch roofs, are almost universal features of Prairie homes.¹⁰

Fred D. Wilson (1885 - 1970)

Fred D. Wilson was a prominent man in Wichita with land and banking interests. He was born in Prattsburg, Kansas on August 11, 1885, received his education in Potwin, Kansas and pursued a vocation in farming. He met Butler County schoolteacher Olive N. Edmiston. They were married at the Edmiston family home in Benton, Kansas March 30, 1910. They had three daughters Winifred ("Winnie"), Iris and Harriet. The family was engaged in farming in rural Butler County near Andover, Kansas.

In 1924, Mr. Wilson had the opportunity to buy the local bank, the Andover State Bank, from then-owner and President J. Earl Tanner of the Walnut Valley State Bank in Eldorado, Kansas. The bank's original building is now the location of the Andover Historic Society. The Wilson family would soon leave the family farm. Mr. Wilson bought Lots 21-22-23-24 in the recently platted Pershing Terrace Addition to Wichita. The Pershing Terrace Addition, promoted by real estate developer Earl R. Hutton, was somewhat unique in that it featured a commons area at the rear of the home lots intended to serve as a private park for the residents of Terrace and Pershing streets. At its inception the park featured a tennis court, putting green and playground with a sand box for the children.¹¹

⁹ White and Ward, 31.

¹⁰ Virginia and Lee McAlester, *Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Knopf Publishing, 2002), 439-440.

¹¹ *Wichita Beacon*, 8 April 1923.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wilson, Fred D., House
Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas
Residential Resources of Wichita, KS - 1870-1957

Section number 8 Page 8

A permit was issued for the home's construction to the Seidel & Neely Construction Company on May 6, 1929. The home's construction was underway during the fall of 1929 when Wall Street experienced a series of declines in market value that were not clearly understood at the time to be the precursor to a world wide economic collapse that would last for over a decade. The Wilson home was completed in time for the family to move in before Christmas 1929. Mr. Wilson guided the bank through the difficult economic crisis, tended to its customers' needs – occasionally from the northeast corner office of the Wilson residence, and enabled the bank to survive the Great Depression.

Andover State Bank

The Wilson daughters married. Two of the three wedding ceremonies were held at the residence, Winnie's in 1938 and Harriet's in 1942, utilizing the wide central staircase for the brides' entrance. After World War II all three husbands returned and this generation set up homes of their own. Son-in-law Max C. McConachie and wife Harriet joined the Andover State Bank in 1949. Succession of the bank passed to Mr. McConachie in 1959. The bank is still owned and managed by the McConachie family, including Vice Chairman and Cashier Harriet McConachie, third generation President and Chairman Kirk McConachie since 1977 and fourth generation Senior VP and CFO Allison (McConachie) Grace.

Wilson Field (Colonel James Jabara Airport)

Through his lifetime banker and farmer Fred Wilson acquired real estate in the Sedgwick and Butler Counties. In addition to his farming and banking interests he had an interest in aviation and developed land that he owned on North Webb Road at 37th Street into a private airfield doing business as Wilson Field, Inc. He gained distinction by earning a pilots license on his 60th birthday. He volunteered time to the Andover Flying 4-H Club. After a succession of ownerships Wilson Field was eventually acquired by the City of Wichita, Wichita Airport Authority for development and use as a general aviation airport. It was enlarged and renamed The Colonel James Jabara Airport in honor of America's first jet-vs-jet ace.

Fred and Olive Wilson lived at 205 N. Pershing until their sale of the residence on June 9, 1953 to oil and gas publisher John H. Morrison and wife Mary. Since that time three additional families have resided at 205 N. Pershing: Loren E. and Helen Lake, Bruce B. and Bonita "Bonnie" Fitts, and Jeff A. and Cynthia U. Roth.

Fred D. Wilson died April 21, 1970 and is interred at Lakeview Cemetery in Wichita. Olive died May 8, 1983 and is interred next to Fred.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wilson, Fred D., House
Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas
Residential Resources of Wichita, KS - 1870-1957

Section number 8 Page 9

John C. Neely, Jr. (1894 - 1985)¹²

John C. Neely, Jr. was born in Topeka, Kansas on October 11, 1894. He was educated in the Topeka public school system and attended the University of Illinois where he earned his architecture degree in 1917. Neely worked for the Fuller Construction Company at Camp Funston in Kansas, projects in Alliance, Ohio and Washington D.C. after leaving Illinois. He was the assistant for Major Wood (later General Wood) who was the government representative for the construction of the Old Hickory Power Plant at Nashville, Tennessee. Neely was transferred to New Cumberland, Pennsylvania as the engineer for the Ordinance Department where he was responsible for the construction of warehouses.

Neely joined the Army and was stationed at Camp Taylor, Kentucky where he attended officer's training school. After the Armistice was signed in November 1918, he came home to Topeka and worked as a bridge engineer. He left that job after a couple of months and came to Wichita and joined Lorentz Schmidt and Company. He worked there until 1922 when he started his own construction company. He married Lottie Thompson on October 26, 1922 in Wichita. John C. retired in 1980 and his son, John C. Neely, III, a graduate of Kansas State University Architecture School, continues to operate Neely Construction Company in Wichita.

John C. Neely died December 24, 1985 and is entombed in Mission Chapel Mausoleum in Wichita. Lottie died November 29, 1990 and is entombed next to John C.

¹² This short biography of John C. Neeley was prepared by Kathy Morgan and is taken from the "Powell House" National Register of Historic Places nomination, 2009. Accessed online at:
http://www.kshs.org/resource/national_register/nominationsNRDB/Sedgwick_PowellHouseNR.pdf See also: Lion Tattler, alumni newsletter. Spring 1982, pg 3.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wilson, Fred D., House
Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas
Residential Resources of Wichita, KS - 1870-1957

Section number 9 Page 10

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http://www.kshs.org/resource/national_register/MPS/Residential_Resources_of_WichitaDRAFT_mps.pdf

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http://www.kshs.org/resource/national_register/nominationsNRDB/Sedgwick_VanArsdaleWOHouseNR.pdf

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Wichita Beacon. 8 April 1923.

Wichita Eagle. Sunday, September 7, 1884, p. 4.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wilson, Fred D., House
Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas
Residential Resources of Wichita, KS - 1870-1957

Section number 10& Photos Page 11

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LOTS 21-22-23-24 & 1/12 INT IN PARKPERSHING TERRACE ADD – WICHITA, SEDGWICK COUNTY, KS.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the parcel historically associated with the Wilson House.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

- 1 of 11 East elevation, facing W – Photograph taken 2/28/2010
- 2 of 11 South elevation, facing NNW – Photograph taken 2/28/2010
- 3 of 11 North elevation, facing SW – Photograph taken 2/28/2010
- 4 of 11 SW corner of house, facing NE – Photograph taken 2/28/2010
- 5 of 11 West elevation exterior sunroom windows, facing E – Photograph taken 2/28/2010
- 6 of 11 Front elevation interior front door with new glass sidelights, facing E – Photograph taken 2/28/2010
- 7 of 11 Hallway from foyer to back door between stairway and living room, facing W – Photograph taken 2/28/2010
- 8 of 11 Living room, facing SW – Photograph taken 2/28/2010
- 9 of 11 Dining room, facing NW – Photograph taken 2/28/2010
- 10 of 11 Second floor hallway, facing NE – Photograph taken 2/28/2010
- 11 of 11 Sun porch windows, facing SSW – Photograph taken 2/28/2010

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wilson, Fred D., House
Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas
Residential Resources of Wichita, KS - 1870-1957

Section number Add'l
Documentation Page 13

Figure 2: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map – 1935



