

VLR- 7/19/77 NRHP- 1/26/78

on Warehouse
Court/Buchanan
180-6

Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Wilson Warehouse (Preferred)

AND/OR COMMON

Community House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North corner of intersection of Lower and Washington Streets.

CITY, TOWN

Buchanan

___ VICINITY OF

Sixth (M. Caldwell Butler)

STATE

Virginia

51
CODE

Botetourt
COUNTY

023
CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Community House

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Town of Buchanan c/o Town Improvement Society

STREET & NUMBER

Lower Street

CITY, TOWN

Buchanan

___ VICINITY OF

Virginia STATE 24066

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Botetourt County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Fincastle

Virginia STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

TITLE

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE

1957

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D. C.

STATE

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CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6, 9 PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1967, 1969, 1976, 1977 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Richmond, Virginia 23219

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Roanoke Times, April 30, 1967.

Stoner, R. C. A Seed-Bed of the Republic. Kingsport, Tennessee: Kingsport Press, 1962.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 Wilson Warehouse is situated on Lower (formerly Water) Street in the Town of Buchanan near the James River and the old James River and Kanawha Canal, and adjacent to the contemporary Botetourt Hotel. It is a large (54' x 48'), two-story structure built in 1839 in the Greek Revival style as a combined dwelling and store/warehouse. The six-bay facade reflects the dual function of the building. The southern three bays serve the large, undivided store room with a doorway in the central bay, while the door to the side-hall-plan residence is in the southern of the three northern bays marking the position of the passage.

The warehouse is built of brick laid in Flemish bond on the street (east and south) fronts and in five-course American bond on the north and west facades. All of the original windows have six-over-six sash and wooden lintels with "bulls-eye" paterae, and there are original recessed-panel, applied-mold shutters on the first-floor east-front windows. The south gable end has central doorways at second-floor and attic levels to facilitate the loading and unloading of goods; a window offset to the west at first-floor level replaces a former entrance door. At the rear of the dwelling house section was a recessed, two-level portico; this has been enclosed and a small, one-story frame lean-to built to enlarge the first-floor kitchen has now been installed in it. A box cornice embellishes the eaves of the gable roof which is concealed behind crow-stepped, coped parapets. Those on the north end contain the dwelling-house chimneys while the only fireplace in the commercial end is served by an interior chimney on the rear wall.

A five-course American-bond brick smokehouse with a gable roof and lozenge-shaped ventilators dating from the mid-nineteenth century is located behind the warehouse, and is connected to the southwest corner of the larger building by an original brick wall.

The plan of the Wilson Warehouse consists of a single large room to the south with a double-pile, side-passage residence unit to the north. The latter is now extended to the rear by the enlargement and enclosure of the porch. The same plan is used in the second story, but the warehouse room has been divided into smaller rooms for use as an apartment.

The store room is distinguished by three rows of two columns each supporting the three large girders which traverse the open room. These columns are of the Tuscan order and have high bases and exaggerated entases. In the northwest corner of the room is a fireplace with a plain architrave surround, a recessed-panel, applied-mold frieze panel, and a plain shelf supported on a large Greek-profile bed molding.

Through the double six-panel, applied-mold doors is the passage, which contains the dogleg-plan, open-string stair. The stair has a round banister ramped and eased at the Tuscan colonette newels, two rectangular balusters to a tread, and plain spandrels.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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CONTINUATION SHEET #2

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7. DESCRIPTION

Opening off the passage are the parlor and the dining room which are connected by double doors like those which join the passage and the store. Both rooms have projecting chimney breasts embellished with Tuscan colonettes supporting plain, wide entablatures and shelves with Greek base moldings. Applied-mold recessed panels are used under the windows, and the trim here, as throughout the house, is symmetrically molded. Much early hardware, including Carpenter locks, survives throughout the building.

The attic is noteworthy for two features. One is the roof structure in which six truncated, king-post trusses support light common rafters. This type of roof framing is a nineteenth-century variant of roofing traditions brought to western Virginia from German Pennsylvania. The other noteworthy feature is the original windlass mechanism with its five-foot wheel which was formerly used to hoist goods to the second story and to the attic. This is the only such mechanism known to survive in Virginia.

Two objects belonging to the house require special mention. In the store room is an oil painting of Buchanan executed in 1855, reportedly for the Wilson family, by Edward Beyer the noted Virginia artist. This is one of the few surviving Beyer oils; Beyer was known principally as a watercolorist. In the dining room hangs a mid-nineteenth-century oil painting of three children. Found in the attic after the town acquired the building, the painting is believed to represent the Wilson children. It is a rare example of provincial portraiture in nineteenth-century western Virginia.

DU

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1839

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wilson Warehouse, in the town of Buchanan in Botetourt County, stands as a striking relic of the commercial life of prosperous, antebellum western Virginia. The prodigious Greek Revival structure, built in 1839 as a combined dwelling, warehouse, and store for John S. Wilson, is a rare example of structures built in association with the state's canal system. With its handsome, unaltered interior woodwork, its unusual plan, its fine brickwork, and its unique surviving attic windlass, it possesses great intrinsic architectural merit exclusive of its rarity.

In 1839 John S. Wilson purchased half of a lot at auction for \$380 from the estate of David Holmes. The land tax records for that year assessed the property at \$175. A year later the addition of a building worth \$7000 was noted, and the total assessment was raised to \$7300. Over the next decade Wilson prospered and continued to add to his land holdings along Water Street (now Lower Street).

Wilson's warehouse was well-situated to benefit from the boom created by the completion of the adjacent James River and Kanawha Canal as far as Buchanan in 1851. His building became an important part of the busy Water Street landscape that also included the much-altered Botetourt Hotel (1851), which still stands on the corner next to the warehouse. The canal waterfront was recorded by noted artist Edward Beyer in a view of the town that he painted in 1855, reputedly for Wilson; the painting now hangs in the storeroom of the warehouse. A prominent citizen of a prosperous town, Wilson's aspirations to elegance were further reflected in the portrait of his children that he had painted and which still hangs in his residence.

Wilson Warehouse remained in family hands into the present century. In 1928 Wilson's grandson Edwin Allen renovated and donated to the use of the Town Improvement Society one room in the building. Eight years later the entire building was bought and given to the town by Oscar C. Huffman. Renovations then, as in 1928, were undertaken by Lynchburg architect Stanhope Johnson. The Wilson Warehouse, now known as the Community House, is currently managed by the Town Improvement Society. The first floor is used as a meeting place for local organizations, and the second floor is divided into apartments.

DU, VDS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Botetourt County Deed Books; Land Books; Will Books.
The Buchanan News, April 3, 1952.
 Couper, William. History of the Shenandoah Valley, Vol. III. New York, 1952.
 Jennings, Ruby B., and Nash, Joy, ed. 1850 Census, Botetourt County, Virginia.
 St. Louis, 1976.
 Martin, Emma and Brugh, Emilie. "A History of the Community House." Mimeographed...
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission files. (See Continuation Sheet #1)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 7	6, 1, 6, 4, 2, 0	4, 1, 5, 3, 9, 8, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

July 1977

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE JUL 19 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

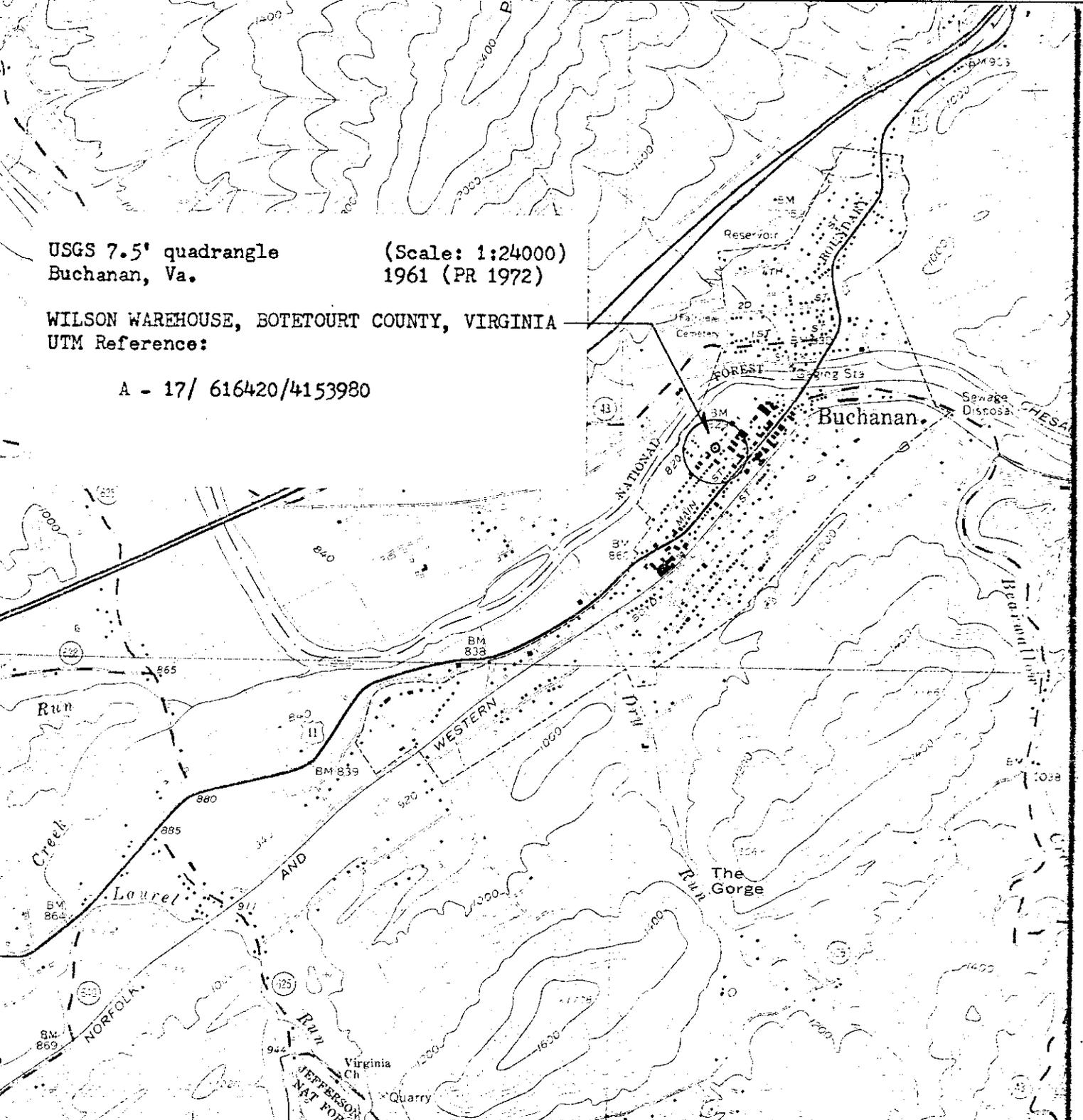
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

USGS 7.5' quadrangle
Buchanan, Va.

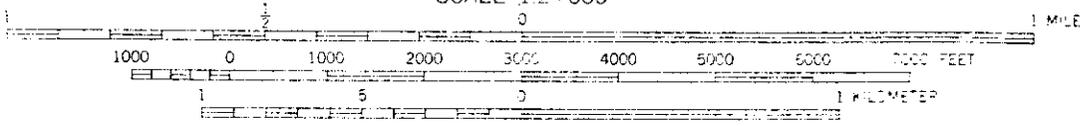
(Scale: 1:24000)
1961 (PR 1972)

WILSON WAREHOUSE, BOTETOURT COUNTY, VIRGINIA
UTM Reference:

A - 17/ 616420/4153980



(MONTVALE)
5058.1 NW
SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 20 FOOT CONTOURS
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST