

17-37-005-61

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

Arkansas
COUNTY:
Crawford
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Wilhauf House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 North Third Street, Rear

CITY OR TOWN:
Van Buren

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Third

STATE: Arkansas CODE: 05

COUNTY: Crawford CODE: 033

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work In progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Miss Ora Smith

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 527

CITY OR TOWN:
Van Buren

STATE:
Arkansas

COOP:
05

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Crawford County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Van Buren

STATE:
Arkansas

CODE:
05

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE OF SURVEY: October, 1973

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

STREET AND NUMBER:
Suite 1030 - Plaza West - McKinley and Lee

CITY OR TOWN:
Little Rock

STATE:
Arkansas

CODE:
05

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE

COUNTY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Wilhauf House, commonly known as the Ora Smith home, is believed to have been built about 1838. Situated on level ground facing west towards the Arkansas River, it was originally of one story, log construction with two large rooms and a central hallway. A gable roof covered the structure. This is commonly referred to as "dog trot" style. Inside end chimneys were located in each room.

Significant alterations were made to the home in the year 1847. These have concealed much of the original construction. The style of the home was changed to that of the traditional Greek revival style through the addition of a tall portico with square columns over an entry porch, and horizontal clapboard siding imposed upon the log construction. Two additional rooms were added to the rear of the house. The pitch of the roof was altered from the ridge line to the rear to make the addition more harmonious with the existing structure.

A boxed cornice is continuous across the front and rear of the house, with the exception of an interruption in the front by the portico. The boxed cornice with return and undecorated frieze prevail on the gable ends. The entire house is devoid of exterior ornamentation with the exception of a decorated frieze below the boxed cornice of the pediment of the entry portico.

The windows are double-hung sash with six lights. There are louvered shutters with each window. Two windows are symmetrically placed on each side of the front entry and one window lies on either side of the end chimneys. These chimneys are visible on the exterior only by the protrusion of the stack above the ridge line. The windows of the two rooms added at the rear of the house are of varied size without shutters. A third chimney was added on the north exterior of the rear addition. This became the kitchen once the additions were completed.

The entire structure rests on a natural stone foundation approximately three feet above ground. Due to recent renovation efforts, the present structure is in excellent condition.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Private</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>Residence</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

While the Wilhauf House has stood in the same spot for over 130 years, the town of Van Buren has changed considerably. The Wilhauf House once stood in the heart of old Van Buren. Today it lies in an isolated spot, facing the railroad tracks and Arkansas River levee, and its only access is from the rear. Second Street, which once ran in front of the house, no longer exists. Yet despite the changing surroundings, the house itself remains basically intact.

In 1837 Mr. Leonard Wilhauf purchased a small tract of land from Mr. John Drennan, one of the founders of Van Buren. The next year, 1838, Wilhauf began construction of this one-story log house. The two rooms of the original house are located on either side of a center hallway. Though some minor alterations have been made, the Wilhauf House remains one of the best-preserved examples of the homes built in western Arkansas in the mid-nineteenth century.

Leonard Wilhauf (1813-1866) was a German immigrant who settled in Crawford County in the 1830's. He is best remembered for his role in the Mexican War, 1846-1848. In this war Wilhauf served as color bearer for the "Van Buren Avengers," a company of mounted troops who served under Archibald Yell. He successfully defended the company banner in all engagements and brought the cherished flag back to Van Buren after the war.

On his return from the Mexican War, Mr. Wilhauf made some improvements in his house. Along with clapboard siding on the exterior of the house, he also added rooms to the rear. During the late 1840's Wilhauf opened the first bakery in Crawford County.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Arkansas	
COUNTY	
Crawford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance (Continued - Page 2)

The Wilhauf House remained in the family until 1943, when it was sold to Mr. Oscar Arnold. The third and present owner of the house is Miss Ora Smith, who bought the property in 1957. Because all of the owners have been interested in preserving the integrity of the Wilhauf House, it has been well cared for. The present owner has been especially active in restoring and preserving Wilhauf House.

Few private residences built during the first half of the nineteenth century are remaining in Arkansas today. Of the small number surviving, almost all are representative of wealthy citizens; however, the Wilhauf House is an exception in that it typifies the common-man's home of that era. The simple Greek revival architecture of the Wilhauf House gives additional significance to this ordinary man's house.

Because it has stood for so long in the city of Van Buren, the Wilhauf House has become one of the most important local landmarks. Additionally, it is significant because of its architectural merit and because its builder and first resident typified the average immigrant pioneer who settled western Arkansas during the first half of the 19th century.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES.

Cobb, Zoe Ellen. "Restoration of the Wilhauf House." Crawford County Heritage. V (April, 1962).
 Eno, Clara B. "Leonard Wilhauf." History of Crawford County. Van Buren, Arkansas: The Press Argus, 1951.
Southwest Times Record (Fort Smith, Arkansas), August 27, 1961.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35° 26' 05.3"	94° 21' 27.6"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Dianna Kirk, Staff Historian

ORGANIZATION: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program DATE: February, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
Suite 1030 - Plaza West - McKinley and Lee

CITY OR TOWN: Little Rock STATE: Arkansas CODE: 05

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name William E. Henderson

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date March 8, 1974

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

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 8-27-74

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Wilhauf House		
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Arkansas	Crawford	Van Buren
STREET AND NUMBER		
109 North Third Street, Rear		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Gene Richardson	October, 1973	Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

West facade, viewed from west.

GPO 932-009

Form No. 10-301
Rev. 7-72

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

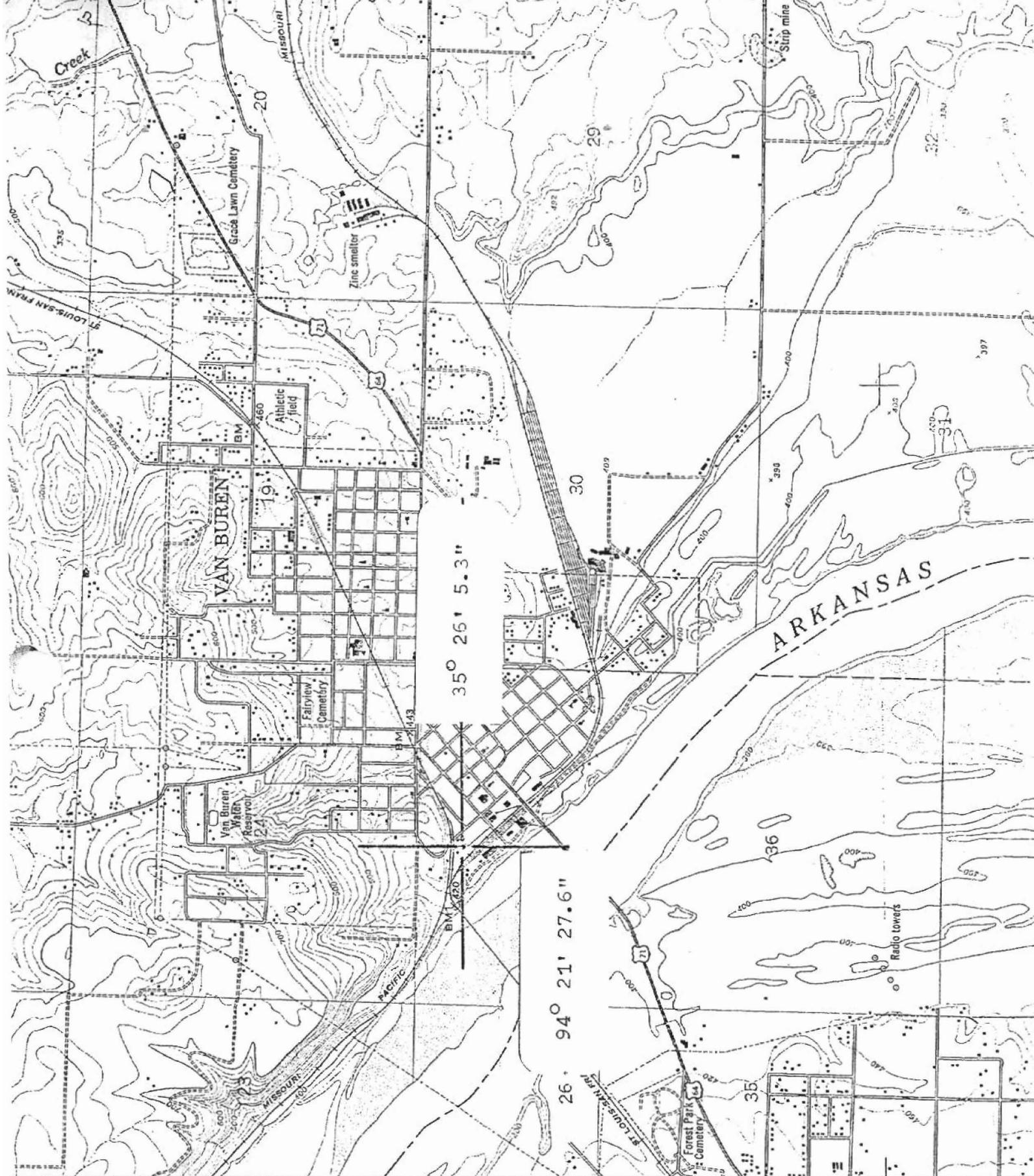
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Arkansas	
COUNTY	
Crawford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Wilhauf House			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
109 North Third Street, Rear			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Van Buren			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Arkansas	05	Crawford	033
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Series, Van Buren Quadrangle			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1951			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



(FORT SMITH)

FORT SMITH 3.9 MI.

25'
T. 9 N.
T. 8 N.

35° 26' 5.3"

26° 94' 21' 27.6"

ARKANSAS

VAN BUREN

Gracia Lawn Cemetery

Zinc smelter

Athletic field

Fairview Cemetery

Van Buren Water Reservoir

Forest Park Cemetery

Radio towers

ARKANSAS

Strip mine

Creek

Missouri

PACIFIC

ST. LOUIS-SAN FRANCISCO

ST. LOUIS-SAN FRANCISCO

20

29

30

36

35

31

32

307

300

350

400

450

500

550

600

650

700

750

800

850

900

950

1000

