NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

# **United States Department of the Interior**National Park Service



# 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).** 

1. Name of Prop	erty				
historic name	Wilkinson-Lent House				
other names/site r	number				
name of related m	ultiple property listing				
Location					
street & number 2	270 Wilkinson Road				not for publication
city or town Per	inton				vicinity
state New York	code	county	code	_ zip code	14450
3. State/Federal /	Agency Certification				
As the designate	d authority under the Nation	nal Historic Preserva	tion Act as amended		
I hereby certify the for registering pro	nat this <u>X</u> nomination operties in the National Regi forth in 36 CFR Part 60.	_ request for determ	ination of eligibility me		
	e property <u>X</u> meets <u> </u>			ria. I recon	nmend that this
national	statewidex_	local			
Signature of certifying	g official/Title	Dat	е		
State or Federal agei	ncy/bureau or Tribal Government				
In my opinion, the pro	operty meets does not me	et the National Register o	riteria.		
Signature of commer	ating official		Date		
Signature of commer	ung omolai		Date		
Title		State or Federa	al agency/bureau or Tribal G	Government	
4. National Park	Service Certification				
I hereby certify that the	nis property is:				
entered in th	e National Register		determined eligible for the	National Regis	ster
determined i	not eligible for the National Registe	er	removed from the National	Register	
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Signature of the Kee	eper		Date of Action		

Wilkinson-Lent House Name of Property	Monroe County, New York County and State			
5. Classification				
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)	Category of Property (Check only one box.)	Number of Reso (Do not include previ	ources within Prop	erty the count.)
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
x private	x building(s)	2	0	 buildings
public - Local	district	0	0	sites
public - State	site	0	0	 structures
public - Federal	structure	0	0	objects
	object	2	0	Total
Name of related multiple prop (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a n	erty listing nultiple property listing)	Number of cont listed in the Nat	ributing resources tional Register	previously
N/A			0	
6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)		Current Function (Enter categories fro		
7. Description				
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)		Materials (Enter categories fro	m instructions.)	
- '		,	,	
		roof:		

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#### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### **Summary Paragraph**

The property at 270 Wilkinson Road is located near the southeast corner of the town of Perinton, Monroe County, at the northwest corner of Wilkinson Road and Pannell Road. The surrounding area is rural, with mix of active farmland, wooded areas, and scattered single-family houses. The house is located 300 feet north of Wilkinson Road, accessed by a gravel driveway. The South Perinton Cemetery is directly across the street from the house; the historic South Perinton United Methodist Church, east of the cemetery, is the only building visible from the house.

The property encompasses 33 acres, most of which is gradually sloped agricultural land, descending to the west and north from the high point of the southeast corner of the parcel. The buildings on the property are the house, privy, and smokehouse, all of which sit on a terrace-like level area east of the center of the 33-acre property. Additional historic agricultural outbuildings located west of the house were lost to fire in the 1940s, as was a garage built in 1917 and converted into a cottage. Mature trees, including black locusts, sugar maples, and catalpas surround the house and surviving outbuildings; south of the house, trees and shrubs create a vegetative buffer between the house and the road. Past the trees to the north, west, and east of the house is the gradually sloping agricultural field, beyond which are wooded buffers to the north and west. White Brook forms the west boundary of the property; Pannell Road is on the east.

The house is two stories tall, with a side-gabled roof; a cross-gable rear (north) wing creates an L-shaped footprint. As described in the Statement of Significance, it was built in two major phases, with the western two-thirds of the house built in the early nineteenth century, and the eastern third, plus the north wing, added in 1917. Exterior features such as siding and windows are generally consistent on all sides of the house as it was substantially remodeled when the addition was built, so the construction chronology is not readily evident from the exterior.

#### **Narrative Description**

#### Exterior

The house has a rubble stone foundation, wood clapboard siding, and asphalt shingle roofing. The south side (front) is nearly symmetrical, featuring a broad front porch with a low-pitched gable roof supported by Tuscan-style columns on square paneled piers at center, sheltering the front door and one cottage-style wood window with a decorative muntin pattern in the upper sash. Matching cottage-style windows are located to either side of the porch. Six one-over-one double-hung wood windows span the second-floor front, with some variation in their spacing. There is one, centered, gabled dormer containing a bank of three windows.

The left (west) side has two one-over-one wood windows at the first floor aligned with two matching windows at the second floor. The west gable contains wider, irregular clapboard siding and two short rectangular windows, both remnants of its pre-1917 appearance.

The right (east) side of the house has an open porch with Tuscan columns sheltering a side door. The rear crossgable wing extends north, flush with the east side of the house, and has a recessed corner porch at the northeast corner sheltering a rear entrance and window. There is a door on the west side of the rear wing, and one on the north side of the original house. Windows on the rear of the original house and on the rear wing are double-hung

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sash in a mix of sizes and configuration, including two-over-two, two-over-one, and one-over-one; there is one nine-over-six window on the west side of the north wing that lights an interior stair landing, and one window on the rear of the original house with a decorative upper sash. On the east side of the building, windows are generally oneover-one, with the exception of a second-floor window with decorative upper sash at the second floor. There is also a tripart, near-Palladian window in the east gable, (the taller center window not being arched as in a true Palladian window). The mix of windows on the sides and rear of the 1917 east and north addition suggests that windows from the original house, dating to its ca. 1840s construction and 1880s renovation, were moved to the sides and rear of the new wing.

Northwest of the house are the two diminutive outbuildings, which abut one another: a fieldstone smokehouse and frame four-hole privy with clapboard siding. Gilbert Wilkinson recorded that in September 1917 he was working on the smokehouse, although it is unclear whether he was building or repairing it.

# Interior: Layout and General Features

The layout on both the first and second floors is almost unchanged since the 1917 addition and remodeling. A consistent feature throughout the first floor is cherry flooring, dating to 1917 and said to have been fabricated from trees that grew on the property. The second floor has a mix of wide-plank wood flooring, in the older portion of the house, and narrower pine flooring in the 1917 addition. Different molding profiles relate to the different construction eras, with a more decorative molding profile seen in the rooms in the original portion of the house, and a simplified, Craftsman flat molding with a raised edge seen in the 1917 east / north wing. Most doors on both floors in both sections of the building are flat or raised four-panel doors, painted or stained; a few have a slightly more decorative profile. The two kitchens have some additional modifications to finishes and trim as described below.

### Interior Layout and Finishes

The front door, off-center on the south façade, opens directly into the living room, which was the main living area in the original house. This room, plus the two rooms to the west of it and the original stair, make up the original ca. 1840s footprint of the house. The living room has a fireplace on its east wall (the original exterior wall of the house), with a buff brick surround and simple flat mantel; the surround and mantel date to 1917. At the north end of this room is a doorway to the original stair, with has two steps up to a landing. The staircase originally ran straight west; the end was reconfigured in 1917 to create the landing and steps to the living room. Window and door casings in this room have a shaped Italianate-style backband likely dating to the 1880s, with some variations in the profile, likely due to attempts to match and/or reconfigure it in 1917.

The room at the southwest corner of the house is a parlor, with window and door casings matching those of the living room. The room north of the parlor was a bedroom before being converted into a kitchen in the midtwentieth century. This room now has mid-century, floral patterned linoleum flooring and wood cabinetry; a door on the north wall leads outside. The exterior door, a closet door on the east wall, the doorway to the parlor, and the window have flat, unmolded casings; the door to the living room has trim similar to the living room and parlor trim.

At the front (south) of the 1917 north / east addition is the dining room, north of which is the 1917 kitchen, now a second dining area. A door on the east wall of the dining room opens to the side porch, and a door on the north wall of the 1917 kitchen leads to the rear porch. At the north end of the north wing is a kitchen / laundry room, with late twentieth-century linoleum flooring and ca. 1917 built-in wood cabinetry on the east wall that was salvaged from the 1917 pantry when it was converted into a bathroom. Two doors on the west wall of the kitchen provide access to the staircases up to the second floor and down to the basement. South of the stairs, accessed from the stair landing or from a narrow north-south storage space next to the 1917 kitchen, is a bathroom, occupying the

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former pantry, with mid-twentieth century square yellow wall and floor tiles accentuated by black tile trim, and mid-century porcelain fixtures. Rooms in the east / north wing have Craftsman style window and door casings, flat-faced with a raised flat backband, simpler in profile than the trim in the 1840s section of the house.

The second-floor layout is unchanged since the 1917 addition. Arranged along an east-west corridor are three bedrooms in the 1840s section of the house, two across the front of the house and a smaller one at the northwest corner, east of which is a closet. These rooms have original wide-plank wood flooring. East of the closet is the stair, which has a 1917 wood rail with a square post, closely spaced square balusters, and a simple shaped handrail. The 1917 east / north addition has one additional bedroom at the front of the house, with a bathroom to the north of it; there are two bedrooms with associated closets and a hall linen closet in the north wing, with the stair in the northwest corner. The bathroom has wood flooring and early twentieth-century porcelain fixtures.

The basement and attic are unfinished. In the basement, the rubble stone foundation walls of both the original ca. 1840s house and 1917 addition are exposed, inclusive of a two-chamber cistern beneath the 1917 cistern. Log joists and hand-hewn posts and beams in the earlier section of the house and later sawn dimensional joists in the addition are evidence of the two phases of construction. The attic likewise has a combination of ca. 1840s framing, including log rafters with bark still attached, and dimensional rafters from the 1917 addition.

#### **Outbuildings**

The outbuildings (counted as one contributing building because they adjoin) are the rubble stone smokehouse, which has a side-gabled roof wood-plank door, and rustic brick quoins, and privy, which has a rubble stone and brick foundation partially infilled with concrete blocks, clapboard siding, one door, four privy holes inside, and a side-gabled, cedar-shingled roof.

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Name of	Property	County and State
8. Stat	ement of Significance	
(Mark "x	rable National Register Criteria " in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property anal Register listing.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.)
Α	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Architecture
В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
x 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.	Period of Significance 1917
D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	<b>Significant Dates</b> Ca. 1840, ca. 1880, 1917
(Mark "x	a Considerations " in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Person
Proper	ty is:	(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
A	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	
В	removed from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation
C	a birthplace or grave.	
D	a cemetery.	
E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Architect/Builder
F	a commemorative property.	

# Period of Significance (justification)

within the past 50 years.

The date of 1917 represents the year in which owner Gilbert Wilkinson undertook a significant expansion and remodeling of his farmhouse, resulting in the distinctive Colonial Revival appearance it has today.

# Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

G less than 50 years old or achieving significance

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#### **Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The property at 270 Wilkinson Road is locally significant under National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture. It is an unusual example of a rural Colonial Revival-style residence that was an extensive remodel and expansion of an existing, vernacular farmhouse. The property's period of significance of 1917 reflects the fact that the house retains high integrity to its 1917 remodeling and expansion; limited evidence of the two earlier phases of construction, its original construction circa 1840s, and a minor remodeling circa 1880s, also survives. (See Figure 1 for a diagram of the major construction phases.)

The farm is located in a rural area in the southeast corner of the town of Perinton on land that, from 1789 to 1821, was part of Ontario County, then became part of the newly created Monroe County. While much of Perinton was subdivided for suburban development in the twentieth century, this section of the town has retained its historic rural character, characterized by open fields, a handful of nineteenth-century farmhouses, and one historic church.

Wilkinson family tradition holds that the house was built in 1811, but no owner has been identified from such an early date. Town records provide an estimated 1832 construction date. The first known owners were the Pound family, who obtained the property by 1843. The Pound family owned the house until 1878, after which four generations of the Wilkinson / Lent family owned the farm from 1878 until 2024.

The house retains its historic rural setting, set well back from Wilkinson Road and surrounded by farm fields that remain part of the property. The Wilkinson family had a sustained presence on Wilkinson Road. In addition to the Wilkinson-Lent House, members of the family lived in three farmhouses farther east on Wilkinson Road, all of which are still extant (one in the town of Perinton, and two in the adjacent town of Macedon). Members of the Wilkinson family were among the founders of the South Perinton United Methodist Church, across the street from the Wilkinson-Lent House; multiple members of the family were active in the congregation, and the burial ground adjacent to the church is the final resting place for at least 24 Wilkinson family members spanning five generations.

#### Narrative Statement of Significance

#### The Pound and Wilkinson / Lent Families

The earliest definite evidence of the house's existence dates to the late 1840s. The first documented owners of the property at 270 Wilkinson Road were Hugh and Sarah Pound, a Quaker family who moved from New Jersey to Farmington, Ontario County in about 1803, settling in the north part of the town near the hamlet of Farmington or New Salem (later known as Pumpkin Hook). The Pound family were prominent members of the Farmington Meeting; Hugh was a member of the committee in charge of construction of the congregation's second meetinghouse, which survives today. Hugh Pound's name appears on the 1843 tax list as owner of the property that is now 270 Wilkinson Road, although he does not seem to have lived in the house. The property passed to Hugh and Sarah's son, Asher, around 1848.

The 1860 Federal Census Non-Population Schedule provides a snapshot of the farm of Asher Pound and his wife, Mary (Burdsall) Pound. The farm consisted of 65 improved acres, plus five acres that were unimproved, and was

<sup>1</sup> Diane Robinson, ed., *History of the Town of Farmington, 1788-1976* (Farmington Bicentennial Committee, 1976), 9.

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valued at \$4,800. Livestock on the Pound farm included two horses, three milk cows and eight other cattle, 48 sheep, and nine swine. The farm produced an estimated 125 bushels of wheat, 200 bushels of "Indian corn," 500 bushels of oats, and 300 pounds of wool annually."

Mary Pound died in 1879 and was buried in the North Farmington Friends Cemetery, after which Asher moved to Michigan, where he lived with his son Ira until his death in 1881.<sup>iii</sup> When Asher moved to Michigan, he sold the farm to the Wilkinson family, longtime neighbors of the Pounds.

Joseph Wilkinson, Sr., and his wife Mary (Smith) Wilkinson moved to Perinton in about 1830 and lived at what is now 340 Wilkinson Road, which still stands just east of Pannell Road. Joseph and Mary Wilkinson had nine children before they moved to Perinton, three of whom died as infants or toddlers; three more were born in Perinton after they moved. The 1850 census lists Joseph and Mary Wilkinson living in Perinton with all nine of their living children, ranging in age from 11 to 39. The location of this house can be seen on the 1852 map of Perinton, a short distance east of Asher Pound's house. (Figure 2)

By the mid-1850s, Wilkinson family members were beginning to establish separate households, as some of the children married. Joseph Wilkinson, Senior died in 1857. By 1860, two of the Wilkinson daughters (Cornelia and Phebe) had married and moved away. The five unmarried Wilkinson siblings (John, Charles, Susan, Nancy, and Robert) still lived in the family home with their mother. About three-quarters of a mile east of the family home, just over the county line in Macedon, Wayne County, the brothers Joseph and James Wilkinson, both of whom had married in the 1850s, had their own households. These vernacular, gable-and-wing farmhouses are located across the street from one another at present-day 205 and 198 Wilkinson Road (Figures 3 and 4). The last of the Wilkinson siblings to marry was Robert, the youngest of the 12 siblings. He and his wife Eliza, who were married in 1861, lived in the original family home at 340 Wilkinson Road, where his mother and four older unmarried siblings also lived until their deaths.

When the Wilkinsons' longtime neighbor, Asher Pound, moved to Michigan after his wife's death, Joseph Wilkinson, Jr., purchased his house and farm. At that time, Joseph's four children were all in their teens and early twenties, and he may have been anticipating a need for one of them to establish a separate household and farm. In January 1886, Joseph's oldest son, Gilbert, married Alice Jumph, and the newlyweds moved to the former Pound house that year. Gilbert and Alice bought the property from Joseph Jr. in 1905.

In 1917, Gilbert Wilkinson extensively remodeled the house, as described in "Evolution of the House and Property," below. Gilbert and Alice Wilkinson had two daughters, Lulu (1887-1967) and Ruth (1893-1997). Lulu never married, and lived in the house for the rest of her life. Ruth married J. Harry Lent in 1917; they had two children, Duane and Floris, and lived in Macedon.

After Gilbert Wilkinson died in 1937, Alice continued to live in the house with her daughter, Lulu. By 1940, Ruth, Duane, and Floris Lent were also living on Wilkinson Road, in a cottage less than 30 feet east of the main house. The cottage, a renovated garage that had been built in 1917 on the site of an old carriage house, was destroyed by fire in December 1941; firefighters were able to prevent damage to the main house. After the fire, Ruth, Duane, and Floris moved into the main house with Alice and Lulu. Duane married in 1946 and eventually moved away. Alice Wilkinson died in 1952; Lulu died in 1967; and Ruth died in 1997 at the age of 104. Alterations to the house

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ii 1860 Federal Census Non-Population Schedule, Ancestry.com.

iii *The Journal: A Paper Devoted to the Interests of the Society of Friends*, Vol. IX, No. 14, Philadelphia and Lancaster, Fourth-Day, 4<sup>th</sup> Mo. 20<sup>th</sup>, 1881, Whole No. 430, 1881, p. 111. In U.S. Quaker Periodicals, 1828-1929 at Ancestry.com.

iv "Firemen Save Landmark as Cottage Burns," Fairport Herald-Mail, 18 December 1941.

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in the mid-twentieth century likely date to the period after Alice Wilkinson's death, when the house was divided into two living units, one, encompassing most of the rear wing, for Lulu and Ruth, and the other for a tenant.

Ruth Wilkinson Lent described the property before World War II as consisting of about 50 acres, devoted to the cultivation of beans, wheat, and potatoes as cash crops; they also had livestock. Outbuildings on the property were a large barn, wagon house, chicken house, smokehouse, and privy. The barn, wagon house, and chicken house all burned in the 1940s; the smokehouse and privy are extant today (Historic Photographs 13-15). The 33-acre farm remains in agricultural use, now leased to a farmer.

The Wilkinsons were active members of the rural South Perinton community, particularly as members and leaders of the South Perinton United Methodist Church. Members of all five generations of the family were active in the congregation, starting with Joseph Wilkinson, Senior, who was one of the founding members of the congregation in 1837. The first section of the church that still stands today, across Wilkinson Road from the Wilkinson-Lent House, was built later that year. Joseph and Mary's descendants were also active in the congregation, particularly their daughter Susan, who was referred to in later histories and news items about the church as a founder or a charter member of the congregation despite having been only 16 when the congregation was formed. In the next generation, Gilbert Wilkinson frequently recorded that his wife and daughters went to church, and he occasionally joined them; his daughter Ruth, and granddaughter Floris, were both active in the congregation as adults. Adjacent to the church is the South Perinton Cemetery, where Joseph and Mary Wilkinson and many of their descendants- at least 24 members of the Wilkinson family, most recently Floris Lent in 2024 - were buried.

A short distance west of the church was the District 11 school, also known as "White Brook Academy," which was built in 1831 on the south side of Wilkinson Road, and served children from Perinton, Macedon, Victor, and Farmington. The building also served as a community center where families in the area, including the members of the extended Wilkinson family living in close proximity to the school, could gather for activities. The school closed in 1951 when the Fairport School District was centralized, and was destroyed in a fire in 1966. vi

The South Perinton area around the Wilkinson-Lent House retains its rural character, with actively farmed land (including the fields at 270 Wilkinson Road) and wooded tracts, interspersed with scattered twentieth-century houses on large lots. The area immediately surrounding the Wilkinson-Lent House, in particular, has not changed substantially; the house retains its view of the cemetery, directly across the street, and the church.

The last member of the Wilkinson family to live in the house was Floris Lent. Floris had moved away as an adult for her education and career as a medical records librarian, living in various places including Amsterdam, New York, Ohio, and New England before moving back to her childhood home in retirement. Once she moved back, she lived at 270 Wilkinson Road until her death in 2024, at the age of 102.

#### Evolution of the House and Property

Physical evidence of the first construction phase of the Wilkinson-Lent House survives in a few locations. In the oldest part of the house, the rafters in the attic are undressed logs with bark still attached original to the early nineteenth-century construction; these confirm that the house was two stories tall when built. Hand-hewn girders and undressed log floor joists visible in the basement also date to the early nineteenth century. Wilkinson family

<sup>&</sup>quot;South Perinton United Methodist Church: 140th Anniversary 1837-1977," Perinton Historical Society.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>vi</sup> [Bill Poray], "District School #11 – 'White Brook Academy," n.d., Perinton Town Historian's Office, https://perinton.org/departments/historian/historian-columns/.

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tradition held that this was the first two-story house in Perinton, possibly built as early as 1811, although the original construction date has not been determined; if the Pound family built the house, a date in the 1840s is likely.

The next known construction phase, evident in historic photos and in the house's physical fabric, likely dates to the 1880s, either when the Wilkinson family purchased the house, or when Gilbert and Alice moved in. Wilkinson family photographs show the appearance of the house between the 1880s updates and the 1917 remodeling (Figures 5-8). The house had an asymmetrical configuration at the first-floor front, with one two-over-two window at left, and a hip-roofed entry porch sheltering an off-center front door and another window at right. This porch had square piers supporting Italianate-style posts with flat, pierced brackets with drops, consistent with a circa 1880s date. The same photos show twelve-over-eight double-hung windows at the second floor, and two-over-two windows at the first-floor front. The second-floor windows were likely original; the two-over-two windows are more consistent with an 1880s date, and may have been added around the same time the porch was added. A few two-over-two wood windows, and one nine-over-six window, are present today at the rear wing; these were presumably moved there in 1917 when the windows on the rest of the house were replaced and the rear wing was added. Also visible on photos taken before 1917 was one-story, side-gabled wing off the east side of the porch, which Gilbert Wilkinson referred to in his diary as the "kitchen and butry" (i.e. buttery, or pantry). The construction date of this wing is unknown.

In February 1917, Gilbert Wilkinson noted in his diary that he planned to build an addition to his house, which he expected would cost about \$3,000. He never indicated in the diary why he wanted to build an addition at that time, when his daughters were 29 and 23, but it may have been prompted by either (or both) of two life changes around that time. In 1916, his uncle James, with whom Gilbert was close, died having never married, and left most of his estate to Gilbert. In April 1917, Gilbert's daughter Ruth married Harry Lent. It is possible Gilbert and Alice wanted to enlarge and update their house expecting that Ruth and Harry would move in with them; Gilbert's sizable inheritance from James, which included real estate valued at \$6,000 and personal property valued at \$3,000, would have meant this was financially a good time for the family to undertake such a project. vii

In March 1917, Gilbert had hired Ed Mason as his contractor "to build a new part to the house and fix up the old part some. We are to pay for material and labor and when done give him 10% on the investment." Two months later, an item in the *Fairport Herald* noted: "Gilbert Wilkinson has started to build. He has Mason & Herbert, contractors, of Palmyra, to do the building." Mason & Herbert, and Ed (Edward) Mason, were mentioned in local news articles around the same time in connection with several projects in and around Palmyra, where they built and remodeled houses and churches.

Gilbert Wilkinson's granddaughter donated his diaries to the Fairport Historical Museum. All the entries relating to the enlargement project have been transcribed, and together present a detailed chronology of Gilbert's process for building the house (see transcription of Gilbert's diaries, below). Some of the major components of the project included:

- Moved the "butry" to its new location next to the barn
- New, broader porch, Colonial Revival style, with simple Tuscan columns and a low-pitched front-gabled roof, centered on the primary facade

vii The Fairport Herald, 20 December 1916.

viii Gilbert Wilkinson's diary, 16 March 1917.

ix "South Perinton," Fairport Herald, 30 May 1917.

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New wood windows; first-floor windows are cottage-style, with decorative muntin pattern in upper sash; second-floor windows are one-over-one double-hung

- Front gable-roofed dormer, centered, with three windows
- Side porch with Tuscan columns, sheltering a side door on the east side of the house
- New bathroom in the addition
- Added electricity to power a water pump and lights
- New fireplace, using the existing chimney
- New garage.

Gilbert spent much of the summer of 1917 doing hands-on masonry work in the "sellar" (cellar), which was enlarged for the addition; once that was completed, most of his house-related diary entries recorded his frequent trips to buy supplies. He noted numerous trips to the village of Fairport, about a six-mile drive from his house, to purchase supplies, including cement, lumber, nails, shingles, windows and window framing, flooring, lath, plaster, hardware, and a kitchen sink. He also went to Rochester at least twice for specialty items, and Waynesport once for furnace parts.

While in Fairport, Gilbert Wilkinson likely shopped at Fairport Lumber & Coal, which was the one known lumber yard at the time, located just south of the Erie Canal in the village's business district. The business had been established in 1872 by Remsen Vanderhoof, and became Dobbin & Moore in 1878, then Fairport Lumber & Coal in 1906. The company manufactured sash, doors, blinds, and millwork. An advertisement for Fairport Lumber & Coal from 1918, just after the Wilkinsons finished their project, depicts items similar in character to those Gilbert used in his project (Figure 9). The existence of a lumberyard where Gilbert Wilkinson could purchase stock building materials simplified the process of expanding the house, as compared to its original construction when materials were not widely available. Convenient access to materials exemplifying current design trends, enabled Gilbert and his contractor to undertake a fashionable update without requiring the services of an architect or specialized craftspeople.

Rural farmhouses in Perinton and elsewhere were typically enlarged by adding a side or rear wing; the other Wilkinson houses on Wilkinson Road show evidence of this type of accretion that enabled them to accommodate growing families. Gilbert Wilkinson's choice to instead thoroughly remodel his house while also enlarging it shows he had a more ambitious vision in mind, and wanted not just a larger house, but also a more sophisticated and modern one that showcased his prosperity.

Although he did not describe his goals in his diaries, the projects Gilbert undertook show that he wanted his house to look more formal and elegant, which he achieved by creating an illusion of symmetry. The position of the door and first-floor windows presented a challenge; Gilbert could not have completely corrected the house's existing asymmetry without relocating the off-center front door and creating new first-floor window openings, so he left the door in its existing position, and enlarged but did not otherwise move the existing window openings. He did what he could to otherwise create a symmetrical façade, emulating a traditional center-entrance Colonial Revival house without an actual centrally located entrance. The new front porch shelters the off-center door and the window to the right of it, creating a distinct center section, which is reinforced by the central gable-roofed dormer aligned with the porch. Wilkinson mirrored the existing west end of the façade in the new east addition, with one cottage-style window at the first floor at each end and two one-over-one windows above it. As a result, with the exception of the window and door openings sheltered by the porch, the façade is substantially symmetrical. Continuous new siding across the façade concealed exterior evidence of the alteration. The resulting composition appears formal and symmetrical, more like a Colonial Revival country estate than a vernacular rural farmhouse (Figures 10-13).

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#### Wilkinson-Lent House

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Gilbert Wilkinson's diaries never indicated a model for his renovation work, such as another house he admired, an architectural pattern book he consulted, or a millwork catalog he shopped from. Nevertheless, the fact that he remodeled his house with a clear Colonial Revival character shows he had some familiarity with architectural fashions. On his regular trips to Fairport he may have seen houses being constructed in the Colonial Revival style, like the house at 69 West Church Street, built circa 1910 on a prominent corner in the heart of the village (listed in the National Register as a contributing building in the Potter Place Historic District). This is a classic centerentrance Colonial Revival house with a symmetrical façade, front-gabled entry porch with a low-pitched roofline, gable returns, and simple unfluted Tuscan columns. It also has three gabled dormers and a side porch that was originally open, subsequently enclosed as a sun porch. The house at 69 West Church Street was one of the first houses built in the Potter Place subdivision, which was eventually filled with Colonial Revival and Craftsman-style houses, most built in the 1920s and 1930s, demonstrating the enduring popularity of these styles in the village.

Gilbert Wilkinson might also have been familiar with mail-order catalogs, like the Montgomery Ward and Sears catalogs that sold house plans and entire homebuilding kits. An example from around the time he was planning his project was *A Plan Book of Harris Homes*, the 1915 edition of which offered a wide variety of Craftsman-style bungalows and American Foursquares, along with four two-story, side-gabled, center-entrance Colonial Revival house designs. In addition to appearing more substantial than the many one- and one-and-one-half-story bungalows and cottages in this and other widely available catalogs of the era, this was a more achievable model, given the existing form and character of the building.

Wilkinson was not alone in using Colonial Revival architectural elements to update an older house. The house at 205 South Main Street – on the road Wilkinson presumably used to travel to the village – is a Greek Revival house built circa 1860 and moved to its current site later in the nineteenth century. Around 1900, the owners added a Colonial Revival-style front porch which, like the Wilkinson porch, is a partial-width porch, wider than an entry porch but not extending across the entire façade. It also has a central front-gabled dormer, which is also similar to the Wilkinson house. Unlike the Wilkinson-Lent House, the owners of 205 South Main Street retained elements of the original character, particularly the decorative grilles in the frieze band. Both projects reflect their owners' desire to achieve a more up-to-date appearance, in keeping with the growing popularity of the Colonial Revival style, without completely rebuilding the house.

The final alterations to the house occurred in the mid-twentieth century, probably after Alice Wilkinson's death in 1952. The house was divided into two dwelling units by converting the first-floor bedroom in the northwest corner of the original house into a kitchen, converting the 1917 kitchen in the rear wing into a living / dining room, converting the adjacent pantry into a bathroom, and creating a new kitchen at the north end of the north wing. A partition was added in the second-floor rear hall to separate the two bedrooms in the north wing from the rest of the second floor. The result was that the rear wing of the house functioned as one dwelling, and the front of the house as another.

#### **Integrity**

The Wilkinson-Lent House retains high integrity to its period of significance of 1917. The exterior has not been substantially changed since Gilbert Wilkinson remodeled the house. One alteration that occurred in the late twentieth century (date unknown; after 1953) was the alteration of the front porch columns to add square bases, presumably due to deterioration of the original column bases.

#### Wilkinson-Lent House

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The interior also retains high integrity, with most rooms unchanged since 1917. Most rooms in the house retain their historic flooring and moldings from either 1917 or one of the earlier eras of construction. Hardware such as door hinges, knobs, and handles and push-button light switches survive throughout the house, as do some historic light fixtures.

After 1917, the only alterations to the interior were the alterations made to convert the house into two dwelling units by adding a kitchen in the former first-floor bedroom, relocating the kitchen from its 1917 location to the rear of the north wing, adding a bathroom, and adding a partition (subsequently removed) in the second-floor rear hall. These changes left the 1917 floor plan intact, and mostly involved the installation or relocation of cabinetry, installation of linoleum flooring, and addition of new, distinctly mid-century fixtures and finishes in the first-floor bathroom.

# Excerpts from Gilbert Wilkinson's Diary: 1917-18 Addition Transcribed by Vicki Masters Proffitt, Director, Fairport Historical Museum

Note: This transcription preserves original spellings.

Tue 02/13/1917	Ed Mason has been here and planned for a new part to the house. Thinks it will cost some over 3000.00 to do the job.
Fri 03/16/1917	Ed Mason has been here this afternoon and we have let the contract to build a new part to the house and fix up the old part some. We are to pay for material and labor and when done give him 10% on the investment.
Tue 06/19/1917	Moving the old butry.
Wed 06/20/1917	Have been moving the old kitchen and butry. [According to Floris, "butry" is buttery, aka pantry].
Thu 06/21/1917	Have got the old kitchen down in by the barn.
Thu 07/26/1917	Have been putting in a foundation for the seller [sic – cellar] wall and drawing hay. John Waterstraw has been here. Have had a bad cave in the new seller tonight.
Fri 07/27/1917	Have been to work putting in a foundation for the seller wall.
Sun 08/05/1917	Paid Ed Mason.
Mon 08/20/1917	Have been to work at the seller wall.
Tue 08/21/1917	Have been to work at the seller wall.
Wed 08/22/1917	Have been to work at the seller wall.
Fri 08/24/1917	Have been to work at the seller and cistern.

Wilkinson-Lent Hous Name of Property	Monroe County, New York County and State
Sat 08/25/1917	Have been to work at the seller wall and the cistern. Have been to Fairport and got a load of cement and the paper for the house.
Mon 08/27/1917	Have been to work at the seller. Went to the brick yard and got some bricks.
Tue 08/28/1917	Have been to work at the seller. One mason was here.
Fri 08/31/1917	Have been to work at the seller.
Sat 09/01/1917	Father died this morning at six o clock. One mason has been here.
Mon 09/03/1917	Have been to work at the seller wall.
Tue 09/04/1917	Have buried Father. Paid Jake the mason 6.00 and Erny Lou's 5.00 five stacks of sement @ 60c 3.00.
Fri 09/07/1917	Have been to Fairport – got a load of sement.
Sat 09/08/1917	Have been to Fairport – got two loads of lumber. Have been to work at the seller the rest of the day.
Mon 09/10/1917	Have been to Fairport and got a load of lumber this after noon.
Sat 09/15/1917	Have been to Palmyra and got a work bench brackets and plank.
Mon 09/17/1917	Have finished the smoke house wall and some other chores.
Thu 09/20/1917	Have been sick all day. Went over east [to his father's property] with Will and met the Delco light man has been here and I bought a sistern of his for 350.00.
Fri 09/21/1917	Have been fixing fences and to work on the smoke house.
Sat 09/22/1917	Have been to Fairport and got a load of lumber.
Fri 09/28/1917	Went to Fairport – got a load of lumber.
Wed 10/03/1917	Went to Fairport got the shingle. Have been back this afternoon and got the walls for the roof.
Sun 10/07/1917	Have been at home all day. The Delco light man has been here. Wants 110.00 to wire the house.
Thu 10/11/1917	Went to Fairport this morning got a load of lath shingles and some other things for the boys.
Sat 10/13/1917	Have been to Fairport this after noon and got a load of window framing.
Thu 10/18/1917	Went to Fairport got the windows for the new part and some pine flooring for up stairs.

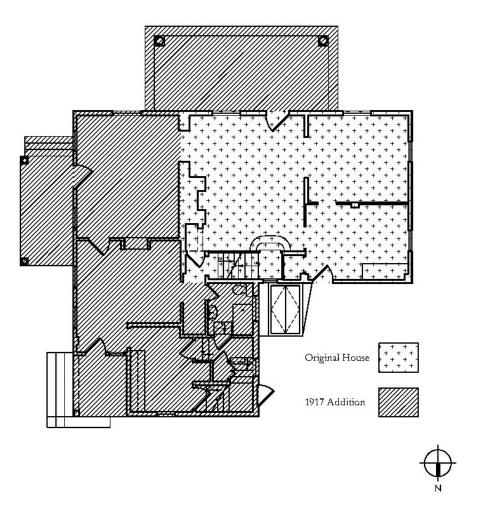
# Wilkinson-Lent House Name of Property

Sat 10/20/1917	Went to Fairport got a load of lumber.
Fri 10/26/1917	Have been to Fairport got a load of siding and windows.
Sat 10/27/1917	Have been to Fairport got a load of lumber and lath.
Mon 10/29/1917	Cleaned out the cistern this fore noon.
Wed 10/31/1917	Have been to Fairport and got a load of lumber and lath.
Mon 11/05/1917	Have been to Fairport got a load of stuff.
Tue 11/06/1917	There has been a man here wiring the house.
Thu 11/08/1917	Have been to Fairport got a load lumber and windows.
Mon 11/12/1917	Have been to Fairport. Came back with Clark and he is figuring out the plumbing.
Tue 11/13/1917	Came back with George Clark to look over the plumbing.
Wed 11/14/1917	Worked in the seller this forenoon. Have been to Rochester this after noon and the rest have been in the beans. Got the plumbing and heating to [?] and Clark for 750.00.
Fri 11/16/1917	Have been to Rochester bought a lot of fireplace trimmings.
Mon 11/19/1917	Have been to Fairport and got a load of lumber. Let the job of painting to Mr. Parmer of Palmira.
Tue 11/20/1917	Went to Fairport got a load of lumber this noon.
Wed 11/21/1917	Frank Jones came this morning to build the shimbley and plaster the house.
Tue 11/27/1917	Have been to Fairport twice got 30 sacks plaster and a load of lumber and lath.
Fri 11/30/1917	Have to work in the seller and a lot of other chores.
Sat 12/01/1917	Went to Fairport got some lumber nails and feed.
Tue 12/04/1917	Went to Fairport and got a load of plaster and some other things.
Fri 12/07/1917	Have been to Fairport got a load of lumber and coal.
Sat 12/08/1917	Have been to Fairport got plaster.
Thu 12/13/1917	Have been to Fairport got a half ton of coal. Have got the furnace in the celler.

Wilkinson-Lent House	Monroe County, New York County and State
Mon 12/17/1917	Have been cleaning up lumber in the wagon house and over east. I paid him for a bag of cement.
Sat 12/29/1917	Have been to work laying floor in our bedroom.
Mon 12/31/1917	Have been to Rochester bought the finishing hard ware for the house came to 78.52.
Wed 01/09/1918	Have been to work in the house with sand paper on the new lumber.
Thu 01/10/1918	Went to Wayneport this morning got the parts to the furness that were broaken.
Fri 01/11/1918	Have been to Fairport and got a load of pipes for the furness.
Tue 01/15/1918	Went to Fairport and got the rest of the things for the furness.
Wed 01/16/1918	Have dug a hole through the seller wall to the cistern.
Sat 01/19/1918	Have been to Rochester and bought some house furnishings.
Mon 01/21/1918	Have been to work in the house cleaning up the doors for the house.
Thu 01/24/1918	Have been to Fairport got 750 lbs of coal and got the new sink for the kitchen and some other things.
Sat 03/02/1918	Philips [?] has been here and started the engine for the electrick plant.
Fri 03/15/1918	Put on some eave troths on the South side of house and the conductor pipe. Have been up to the trolley tonight after the fire place shelf and some molding.
Wed 03/27/1918	Ed Mason has been here and put up the shelf in the living room over the fire place.
Thu 04/11/1918	Have changed the telephone.

Wilkinson-Lent House

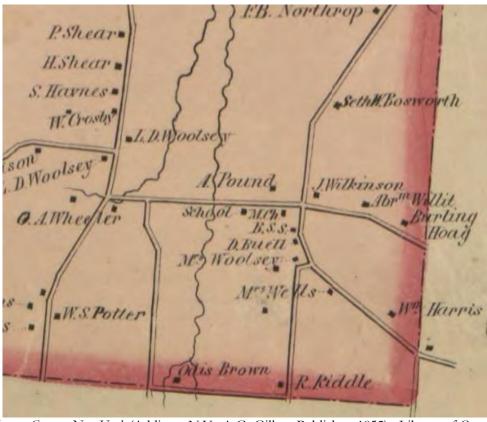
Name of Property



**Figure 1.** Diagram showing construction chronology. Note that the front of the house (south side) and Colonial Revival porch are at the top of the drawing.

#### Wilkinson-Lent House

Name of Property



**Figure 2.** *Map of Monroe County, New York* (Addison, N.Y.: A.G. Gillett, Publisher, 1852). Library of Congress Geography and Map Division, <a href="http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3803m.la000518">http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3803m.la000518</a>. The Wilkinson-Lent House is shown as "A. [Asher] Pound," and the Joseph Wilkinson, Senior House is "J. Wilkinson."

#### Wilkinson-Lent House

Name of Property

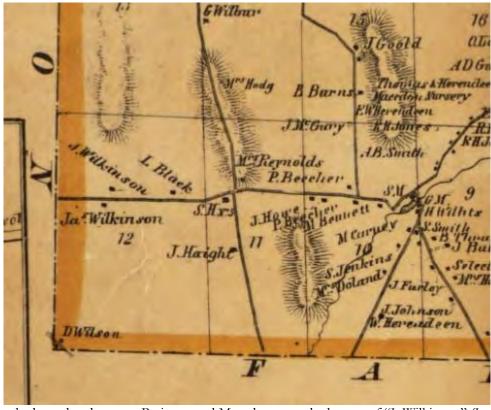


Figure 3. Just over the boundary between Perinton and Macedon were the homes of "J. Wilkinson" (Joseph Wilkinson, Jr.) and "Jas. Wilkinson" (James Wilkinson), now 205 and 198 Wilkinson Road, respectively. Gillette's Map of Wayne County, New York (Philadelphia: John E. Gillette, 1858), Library of Congress Geography and Map Division, <a href="http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3803w.la000576">http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3803w.la000576</a>

Wilkinson-Lent House

Name of Property



Figure 4. 205 Wilkinson Road, Macedon, the home of Joseph Wilkinson, Jr. Gilbert Wilkinson grew up in this house, which is less than a mile east of 270 Wilkinson Road. Perinton Town Historian's Office.

# Wilkinson-Lent House

Name of Property



**Figure 5.** Photograph of the Wilkinson-Lent prior to 1917, in the Wilkinson family collection. View is of the south elevation looking northeast.

# Wilkinson-Lent House

Name of Property



**Figure 6.** In this photograph, taken in the 1910s before the remodeling of the house, Alice and Lulu Wilkinson are sitting on the porch; the girls in front are their relatives Mary and Pauline Wilkinson. The one-story east wing that was removed in 1917 is visible at right. Wilkinson family collection.

# Wilkinson-Lent House

Name of Property



Figure 7. View of the house at right, taken before 1917. Wilkinson Family Collection.

#### Wilkinson-Lent House

Name of Property



**Figure 8.** This photograph, which must have been taken from the steeple of the church across the street, was taken before 1917. The house is visible with its one-story kitchen still attached, to the right of which is an outbuilding (the carriage house that was later replaced by the garage). Other outbuildings are visible at left. Wilkinson Road is just visible at the bottom edge of the photograph near the left corner. Wilkinson family collection.

#### Wilkinson-Lent House

Name of Property

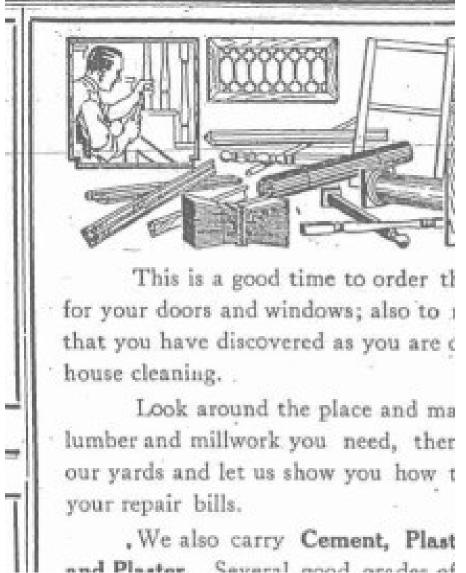


Figure 9. Advertisement for Fairport Lumber & Coal Co., Fairport Herald, 3 April 1918.

Wilkinson-Lent House

Name of Property



**Figure 10.** The caption on this photo from the Wilkinson family collection, written by Lulu Wilkinson, reads "Mr. & Mrs. G.R. Wilkinson's home when building," indicating it was taken in late 1917 or early 1918, shortly before the remodeling project was completed.

Wilkinson-Lent House

Name of Property



Figure 11. Undated photograph from the Wilkinson family collection. The garage is shown at right.

# Wilkinson-Lent House

Name of Property



Figure 12. October 1953 photograph. Wilkinson family collection.



Figure 13. Undated slide showing the house in the mid/late 20th century, from the Wilkinson family collection.

# Wilkinson-Lent House

Name of Property



Figure 14. Chicken House (right) and Wagon House

# Wilkinson-Lent House

Name of Property



**Figure 15.** From right to left: chicken barn, wagon house, horse barn, "big barns." These were located northwest of the house, and were destroyed by fire in the 1940s.



Figure 16. Smokehouse (left) and privy, in the winter of 1965-66.

Wilkinson-Lent House	
Name of Property	

Monroe County, New York County and State

#### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:	
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been	State Historic Preservation Office	
requested)	Other State agency	
previously listed in the National Register	Federal agency	
previously determined eligible by the National Register	Local government	

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Wilkinson-Lent House Name of Property	Monroe County, New York County and State
designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #	University Other Name of repository:
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):	
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property 33 (Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)	-
Latitude/Longitude Coordinates	
Datum if other than WGS84:(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)	
1. Latitude:	Longitude:
2. Latitude:	Longitude:
3. Latitude:	Longitude:
4. Latitude:	Longitude:
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the bound	aries of the property.)
The boundary is indicated by a heavy line or	the enclosed map with scale.
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries	were selected.)
The boundary encompasses the entire current	parcel associated with 270 Wilkinson Road.
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Katie Eggers Comeau, Senior Archit	ectural Historian
organization Bero Architecture, PLLC	date April 10, 2025
street & number 32 Winthrop Street	telephone (585) 262-2035
city or town Rochester	state NY zip code 14607
e-mail <u>kcomeau@beroarchitecture.com</u>	

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

• Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Wilki	nson	-Len	t House		
					_

Name of Property

Monroe County, New York County and State

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**
- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:			
Submit clear and descripti or larger. Key all photogra		mage must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per	r inch)
Name of Property:			
City or Vicinity:			
County:	State:		
Photographer:			
Date Photographed:			
Description of Photograph	(s) and number:		
1 of			

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Wilkii	nson-l	_ent House	

Name of Property

Monroe County, New York County and State

Property Owner:	
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)	
name <u>Tim Slisz</u>	
street & number 270 Wilkinson Road	telephone (585) 733-1063
city or town Fairport	state NY zip code 14450

**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 listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement**: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.







































