

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Wilkins Estate

and/or common Parklawn Cemetery

### 2. Location

street & number 12800 Veirs Mill Rd. \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Rockville \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 4th

state Maryland county Montgomery

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Parklawn, Inc.

street & number Box 725 telephone no. 881-2151

city, town Rockville state and zip code Md.

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse liber 2508

street & number folio 485

city, town Rockville state Md.

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title MNCPPC Historic Sites Inventory

date 1976 \_\_\_ federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Park Historian's Office

city, town Rockville state Md.

# 7 DESCRIPTION

M:30-1

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The main house of this complex now serves as the office for the Parklawn Cemetery corporation. It is a massive, stone, Classical Revival structure built in the early 20th Century "estate" style.

The gate-house for this estate was quite a distance from the main house. It was located on the corner of Rockville Pike and Randolph Rd. It too was a stone, Colonial Revival structure, that appeared to be a genuine building of this period. It served as a real estate office during the 1960's, and was vacant for the past several years. It was torn down during the spring of 1976.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8. Significance

Survey No.

M: 30-1

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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 circa. 1917 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or

Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Wilkins Estate is significant as an example of Classical Revival "Estate" style architecture built in Montgomery County during the early part of the twentieth century. The house was built by Robert C. Wilkins about 1917.<sup>1</sup> Robert purchased the land on which his house was built, approximately 409 acres of a tract of land referred to as "Prevention," through various deeds between 1916 and 1918.<sup>2</sup> The Wilkins family ran a horse farm here. Their house was built from stone quarried on the property.<sup>3</sup> In August of 1918, Robert C. Wilkins, unmarried, conveyed the house to John F. Wilkins (though the map of 1918 shows the house as belonging to both J.F. and R.C. Wilkins).

The Wilkins family later lived in Washington, D.C. and rented out the house. Thirty-five year old Paul Cantor remembers living in the house as a child. His father, Dr. Cantor, used the carriage house on the property, which was built in 1925, as a drunk tank in his efforts to reform alcoholics.<sup>4</sup> John F. Wilkins died in 1947 leaving all his property in trust for his wife, Julia, and their two children, Katherine and John, Jr.<sup>5</sup> In November of 1951, the Wilkins Estate was sold to Norwood Land Co., Inc.<sup>6</sup> The North Washington Cemetery, Inc. purchased the estate in 1955.<sup>7</sup> In 1958, it became Parklawn Cemetery, Inc., as it remains today.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The date given is based on the date that the land was purchased, the houses appearance on the 1918 map and the estimation of the date given by Mr. Murdock of Parklawn Cemetery.

<sup>2</sup>Deed 1097/473, Mont. Co. Land Records.

<sup>3</sup>Parklawn Cemetery

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

<sup>5</sup>Will HGC 40/234, Mont. Co. Register of Wills.

<sup>6</sup>Deed 1628/525, Mont. Co. Land Records.

<sup>7</sup>Deed 2068/416, " "

<sup>8</sup>Deed 2508/485, " "

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M:30-1

Mont. Co. Land Records

Mont. Co. Register of Wills

\*Conversation with employees at Parklawn Cemetery, 12/82

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 110.16 acres

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

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 Catherine Crawford

organization Mont. Co. Historic Preservation Comm.

date 1/83

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Rockville

state Md.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M#30-18  
1607935704

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Wilkins Estate & Gatehouse (latter destroyed) (Wilkins' Venture)

AND/OR COMMON

Parklawn Cemetery

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

12800 Viers Mill Road (and Rockville Pike & Randolph Rd.)

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER
- MILITARY

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

(cemetery)

NAME

Parklawn Cemetery

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

12800 Viers Mill Road

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

M:30-1

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

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# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:30-1

## PERIOD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

- |   |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" 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"/> 00-1499                | <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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE           | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION              | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799              | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                    | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING            | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899              | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE               | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |
| <input checked="" 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

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This was another of the opulent 1920's estates, that were built in the Rockville Pike area by wealthy Washingtonians. The Wilkins family were reportedly heirs to a fortune made producing coffee. (Perhaps it was from the milling firm of that name in Georgetown, however.)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

**FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

Spring, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

TELEPHONE

589-1480

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

STATE

Maryland

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DARNESTOWN 11 MI.  
ROCKVILLE (P.O.) 1.7 MI.  
FREDERICK 31 MI.  
ROCKVILLE (P.O.) 2 MI.  
(ROCKVILLE)



Gatehouse  
(demolished)

M: 30-1

Parklawn Cemetery (Wilkins Estate)

Kensington Quad, 1956

Green Acres Sch

Bach No 2

Waverly Sanitarium

White Flint Country Club

Garrett Park Estates

St Angela Hall Sch

Garrett Park

Rock Creek Palisades Sch

Rock Creek Palisades

Palisades

Lawrence

Decatur