

FINAL

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Willkie, Wendell Lewis, House

other names/site number Cullen-Mauzy-Willkie House; 139-555-39003

2. Location

street & number 601 North Harrison Street N/A not for publication

city or town Rushville N/A vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Rush code 139 zip code 46173

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patrick R. Rabb

11/2/95

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

| | |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

Willkie House
Name of Property

Rush Co., IN
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1 | 1 | buildings |
| 0 | 0 | sites |
| 0 | 0 | structures |
| 0 | 0 | objects |
| 1 | 1 | Total |

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: limestone

walls BRICK

STONE: limestone

roof STONE: slate

other WOOD: weatherboard

METAL

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Willkie House
Name of Property

Rush Co., IN
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c.1874

1940-1944

Significant Dates

c.1874

1940

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Willkie, Wendell Lewis

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Lilly Library, Indiana University

Willkie House
Name of Property

Rush Co., IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1 | 6 | | 6 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 | | 4 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 0 |
Zone Easting Northing
2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing
4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William F. Gulde

organization Rush County Heritage date 10-19-92

street & number 2855 E. 45th St. telephone 317-542-8142

city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46205

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Virginia Willkie

street & number 601 North Harrison Street telephone _____

city or town Rushville state IN zip code 46173

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

The Wendell Willkie House, known also as the Cullen-Mauzy-Willkie House, stands in a residential section of Rushville, Indiana. Rushville is a typical Indiana county seat of the south-central section of the state, the terrain is level, and neighborhoods surround a central business core. This section of Harrison Street was a prominent upper to middle class area northwest of the courthouse square which was first developed in the 1870s.

The Willkie House occupies a large lot with mature trees and is set back from the sidewalk. Included on the lot is the house and a 1982 building known as the "Bookhouse". The Bookhouse houses Willkie memorabilia. Although non-contributing, this one and one-half story wood frame building has "Italianate" features which harmonize well with the house proper.

Built in c.1874, the Cullen-Mauzy-Willkie House is a two and one-half story brick house with a limestone foundation and a slate-clad hip roof. Most architectural detailing is Italianate in style. The main elevation of the house faces Harrison Street. The foundation is of rock-faced limestone capped by a dressed water table, walls are of stretcher bond brick. In plan, the front section is L-shaped, creating a one bay wide projecting section on the front elevation. The offset section is two bays wide. First story window openings are segmental arched with stone sills. Second story window apertures are round arched. All window openings on the front (east) and side (north and south) elevations have limestone springers and keystones.

The hip roofed porch set into the corner of the "L" is an early 1900s replacement of the original porch, and was recently partially rebuilt. The porch features wooden tuscan columns set on high stone plinths, an entablature with plain frieze and dentil molding, and a pediment over the porch entry steps. The main entrance is located under the porch. It has a two leaf doorway surmounted by a segmental arched transom.

Capping the entire two story section of the house is a wooden entablature consisting of paired scroll brackets, segmental arched openings (apparently originally windows, now blind openings), and decorative rosettes. Brackets are paired on either side of the window openings, which align with those below. Brackets are also

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Willkie House
Rush County, Indiana

paired at outside corners. Rosettes alternate with the bracket/window groupings. Originally, the Willkie House likely had a box cornice guttering system like its nearly identical neighbor to the north (611 N. Harrison), but this was removed at some point in favor of a simple fascia mounted metal guttering system. The slate roofing is laid in a hexagonal pattern and the ridge caps are metal.

The south elevation features a two story semi-octagonal bay window, while the north elevation is relatively plain, having two bays of window openings on each floor and a corbelled chimney rising above the roof in the center. At the rear of the house, the main block is visible above the hip roofed one and one-half story rear section. Openings are segmental arched with stone sills, the arches formed of double coursed header brick. The section immediately abutting the main portion of the house has gabled dormers facing north and west. A one story brick section appears to have been added to the rear of the dormered section at some point, connecting a once separate brick summer kitchen to the house. The summer kitchen was converted to a garage at some point by extending the west wall with wood frame, clapboarded walls and a garage door facing west.

Despite the asymmetrical exterior, the interior has a common Italianate plan, with a central entry/stair hall leading to parlors on either side, as well as a dining room. The stair hall also connects to the rear section which has a kitchen, bathroom, and utility room. Woodwork is oak; baseboards are tall with molded edges, and openings are cased with architrave surrounds. Most door openings have transoms.

One enters directly into the stair hall with tile flooring, which features a grand oak staircase along the north wall. The newel post is octagonal with a molded circular top, balusters are elaborately turned, and the hand rail is molded. Carved applied brackets and a bead-and-reel molding decorate the stair string. The open string stairs are rounded rather than having an

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Willkie House
Rush County, Indiana

intermediate landing. The south parlor features the bay window. Both the stair hall and south parlor have decorative plaster ceiling medallions.

The second floor has five rooms, including four bedrooms and a bathroom. Finishes are similar to the first floor. Original cast iron mantelpieces are found in the upstairs bedrooms. The northeast bedroom was used by Mr. Willkie.

The Cullen-Mauzy-Willkie House still retains much of its original Italianate architectural detailing. In particular, the house appears very much as it did during 1940-1944, when it was briefly thrust into the national limelight as the home of Wendell Willkie.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Willkie House
Rush County, Indiana

The Wendell Willkie House is significant under Criteria B and C. As a fine example of Italianate residential design, the Willkie House is locally significant under Criterion C. Under Criterion B, the home is nationally significant for its association to Wendell Lewis Willkie (1892-1944), 1940 Republican presidential candidate, author, and American statesman. Willkie lived here during the height of his political career, from the summer of 1940 until his death in 1944. Because the period of significance extends beyond the 50-year cut off at this time (1943), criteria consideration G has been checked. However, the Willkie House is clearly of exceptional importance and meets consideration G.

The Wendell Willkie House in Rush County, Indiana could be evaluated for national significance under the NHL program using *Criterion 2*, for its association with Wendell Willkie. The appropriate NHL theme would be World War II, relevant subthemes are *Politics and Diplomacy During the War* and *The Home Front*. The period of national significance would be 1940-1944.

Born Lewis Wendell Willkie in 1892, Willkie was the fourth of six children. His parents, Herman and Henrietta, were partners in their own law firm (Henrietta was one of the first women in Indiana to pass the bar). Willkie attended Elwood High School, and worked summers at a local tin plant and one summer was spent working odd jobs in South Dakota and Yellowstone National Park. In 1910, Wendell enrolled in Indiana University. At I.U., Willkie earned a reputation as a maverick and great orator. He completed undergraduate studies in 1913, taught history for several years at Coffeyville, Kansas, returned to I.U. and completed a law degree.

Willkie returned to Elwood, but soon enlisted in the U.S. Army. Upon reporting to Fort Harrison in Indianapolis, a clerk recorded his name as Wendell Lewis Willkie, which he retained from that day on, since he had long been known by his middle name. During the period of May 1917 to September 1918, Willkie was in active duty. He sailed for Europe in 1918, but the war had ended before Willkie saw combat. While on leave from training in Louisville, Willkie had married Edith Wilk, a librarian from Rushville, Indiana in

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Willkie House
Rush County, Indiana

1918.

From 1919 to 1929, the Willkies lived in Akron, Ohio, where Wendell was a legal counsel for Harvey Firestone. In 1920, Willkie quit Firestone and established his own law practice. Willkie quickly became a leading lawyer and well-known citizen in Akron. In 1924, Willkie was made a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. In this capacity, Willkie ardently supported U.S. entry into the League of Nations, and urged the convention to condemn the KKK. Although neither proposal was successful, Willkie had begun to earn a national reputation.

In 1929, Willkie was offered a top position as the legal representative of Commonwealth and Southern, a holding company for several power utility firms. The Willkies moved to New York City, where they resided in a fashionable apartment building on Fifth Avenue. Willkie continued his interest in politics. In 1932, he was active in Newton Baker's presidential campaign during the Democratic National Convention. In 1933, Willkie became president of Commonwealth and Southern.

FDR sought at this time to dissolve several major power utility companies, including Commonwealth and Southern. Willkie won a congressional battle over legislation which proposed to dissolve holding companies in 1935. The legal battle with FDR's TVA continued, however, with Willkie becoming the national spokesman for the power industry. Ultimately, the Supreme Court enforced FDR's dissolution of private power firms in the TVA area.

During the late 1930s, Willkie engaged in several debates with members of FDR's administration. Through these debates, Willkie's reputation grew. Several eastern papers began to hint that Willkie could be a potential presidential candidate. With Commonwealth and Southern bereft of most properties, Willkie began to think of politics as a career rather than advocacy. It was not until the summer of 1939 that Willkie openly hinted that he would run for president.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Willkie House
Rush County, Indiana

Willkie first had to capture the nomination for the Republican Party slot (even though previous to this he was a Democrat). Willkie accomplished this in June of 1940, and returned to Elwood, Indiana in August to begin his campaign for the presidency. Rushville would be his campaign headquarters. The old Lollis (Durbin) Hotel (NRHP, 2-19-82) would be his press center, while the home of Mrs. Charles Mauzy would have an apartment for Willkie. Mrs. Cora Wilk, Wendell's mother-in-law, initially purchased the house, but in 1942, the Willkies assumed control. His selection of Rushville was likely part of his campaign strategy, but was also a practical consideration. Willkie owned several farms surrounding Rushville (this was the only real estate he owned at the time, they were an investment only; he never lived on them), and his wife's family was from Rushville. Perhaps more significantly, the Mauzy Home and Durbin Hotel represented his ideals and image as a Midwesterner of common background. When not touring America in his campaign train, Willkie stayed at 601 North Harrison. From August until November 1940, hundreds would gather at the house when Willkie was in town to catch a glimpse of him, according to neighbor Janet Mauzy. Ms. Mauzy also recalls that reporters from around the nation camped in the front yard to get an interview with the Republican candidate. Many famous people, such as Henry Ford, visited Willkie at this home. Although Willkie lost to FDR (27.3 million to 22.3 million), he received more votes than any Republican candidate in the party's history. More significantly, Willkie drew the Republican Party out of the isolationist movement and presented a united front to the world.

Despite Willkie's loss, he remained politically active. While he politely turned down a position with FDR's administration, he did tour Britain during the Blitz and returned in February 1941 to testify before Congress during a key vote for the Lend-Lease Act. Many historians believe that Willkie's testimony saved the Lend-Lease program at a most critical time. In July of 1942, Willkie proposed to tour Allied and neutral nations as a special envoy of the president, both as a fact finding mission and to demonstrate Allied and American unity. Roosevelt heartily endorsed the idea. He assigned personnel to the project and a converted Consolidated

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Willkie House
Rush County, Indiana

B-24 "Liberator" bomber as Willkie's personal transport. Willkie traveled to North Africa, Russia, and China, among other places.

Willkie was convinced that planning must start immediately for the post war era. Willkie urged dismemberment of the old colonial system, economic and political freedom for all peoples, and a strong American role in maintaining world peace. Willkie returned to Rushville and drafted a key radio speech outlining his viewpoint, which he delivered on October 26, 1942. Nation wide response from this speech convinced Willkie to undertake something he had long thought of-publishing a book. His One World was completed in 1943 and sold over one million copies in seven weeks. Drafted in a New York City apartment, but revised and proofread at his Harrison Street home in Rushville, One World recounted Willkie's 1942 trip and outlined his vision of post war America and the world. Willkie's book and speeches made the war tangible and justifiable to Americans.

During the period of 1940-1943, Willkie made significant contributions to the fledgling civil rights movement. He openly called for the armed forces to end racial discrimination. Willkie pursued anti-lynching laws in Congress, and following the June 20, 1943 race riots in Detroit, Willkie called for an end to racial prejudice and berated both political parties for failing to attend to the civil rights issue in a nationally broadcast radio address. Willkie attacked Hollywood for demeaning African-Americans by perpetuating stereotypical roles. Willkie and NAACP secretary Walter White met with film executives and, for a time, Hollywood began to give African-Americans more favorable roles. Perhaps his most famous contribution to the civil liberties cause came in November of 1942 when Willkie successfully defended a Communist Party member, whose citizenship had been revoked due to his affiliation, before the Supreme Court.

Willkie sought the Republican ticket nomination once again in 1943-44. After a serious defeat in the Wisconsin primary, Willkie dropped out of the race, and was set to return to Rushville. He died on October 8, 1944, and was laid to rest in East Hill

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

Willkie House
Rush County, Indiana

Cemetery in Rushville.

Though he never became president, most historians agree that Willkie affected the course of politics and events on a national scale during a critical period of American history. The Cullen-Mauzy-Willkie House best represents his image and contributions to American history. Other properties which are associated with Willkie include his boyhood home in Elwood, the high school he attended (NRHP, 5-12-75, since demolished), his home in Akron (if extant), his apartment in New York City (if extant), and the Durbin Hotel in Rushville (NRHP, 2-19-82). The Durbin Hotel is associated with Willkie's 1940 presidential campaign, however, the house at 601 North Harrison Street has broader associations with the most significant period of Willkie's life.

The Cullen-Mauzy-Willkie Home also meets Criterion C for its locally outstanding architecture. The Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory, Rush County Interim Report of 1988 recognized about six Italianate homes in Rushville as outstanding examples of this style. Built in c.1874, the Willkie House has all the characteristics commonly associated with high style Italianate domestic design. The home was built during a period of rapid expansion in Rushville. Founded as a county seat in 1822, Rushville grew rapidly after rail lines reached town in 1850 and again in 1868. Rushville became a regional market town for East Central Indiana during this period, and the community's wealth was expressed in fine homes such as this.

The Cullen-Mauzy-Willkie House was built in about 1874 for William A. Cullen. Cullen had platted the addition to Rushville in which the home is located, but apparently lived next door in a nearly identical house (611 Harrison). Cullen was elected a circuit court judge in 1886, and owned the house until his death in 1894. Rush Budd owned the house from 1894 to 1924. Budd owned a saloon in downtown Rushville. The Mauzy family had operated grocery and general stores in Rushville since at least the 1860s. At one time, various Mauzy family members occupied 601 and 611 Harrison. They were the next owners of the home, and it was Mrs. Charles Mauzy

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 & 9 Page 9

Willkie House
Rush County, Indiana

who rented out and eventually sold the home to Willkie. The home has remained in the Willkie family ever since; Virginia Willkie, Wendell's daughter-in-law, now lives there.

NOTE: Dark Horse by Steve Neal provided much of the background for this statement of significance.

9. Bibliography

Interviews

Mauzy, Janet. Neighbor to Willkie, interview with William Gulde, September 1, 1992.

Willkie, Virginia. Daughter-in-law to Willkie. interview with William Gulde, August 20, 1992.

Books and Articles

Atlas of Rush County, Indiana. Chicago: J.H. Beers & Co., 1879.

Barnard, Ellsworth. Wendell Willkie, Fighter for Freedom. Marquette, MI: Northern Michigan University Press, 1966.

Gary, Abraham Lincoln and Ernest B. Thomas. Centennial History of Rush County, Indiana. Indianapolis: Historical Publishing Company, 1921.

Johnson, George L. Commercial History of Rushville and Rush County Louisville, KY: Brewer's Printing House, 1899.

Jordan, John M. "A Small World of Little Americans: The \$1 Diplomacy of Wendell Willkie's One World," Indiana Magazine of History, Vol. LXXXVII, No. 3, September 1992, pp. 173-204.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 & 10 Page 10

Willkie House
Rush County, Indiana

Neal, Steve. Dark Horse: A Biography of Wendell Willkie. Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Company, 1984.

A Rush County Retrospect. Rushville, IN: Rush County Historical Society with Indiana Historical Bureau, Vol. 1, 1984.

Willkie, Wendell. One World. New York: Pocket Books, Inc., 1943.

Other Sources

Rush County Tax Records, Rush County Courthouse, Rushville, IN

Various issues of the Rushville Republican from the period 1940-1944.

10. Geographical Data, Verbal Boundary Description

All of Lot 1 and part of Lots 7 and 8 in Cullen's Addition to the City of Rushville, Indiana. Refer also to the attached map.

Boundary Justification

This is the historic property boundary. Records at the Rush County Courthouse are unclear as to which portion of Lots 7 and 8 are legally part of the property, so the attached scale map is included for clarity.